こわい おばけのまんが

日野日出志

ファミリィブックス

こわい

おばけのまんが

日野 日出志

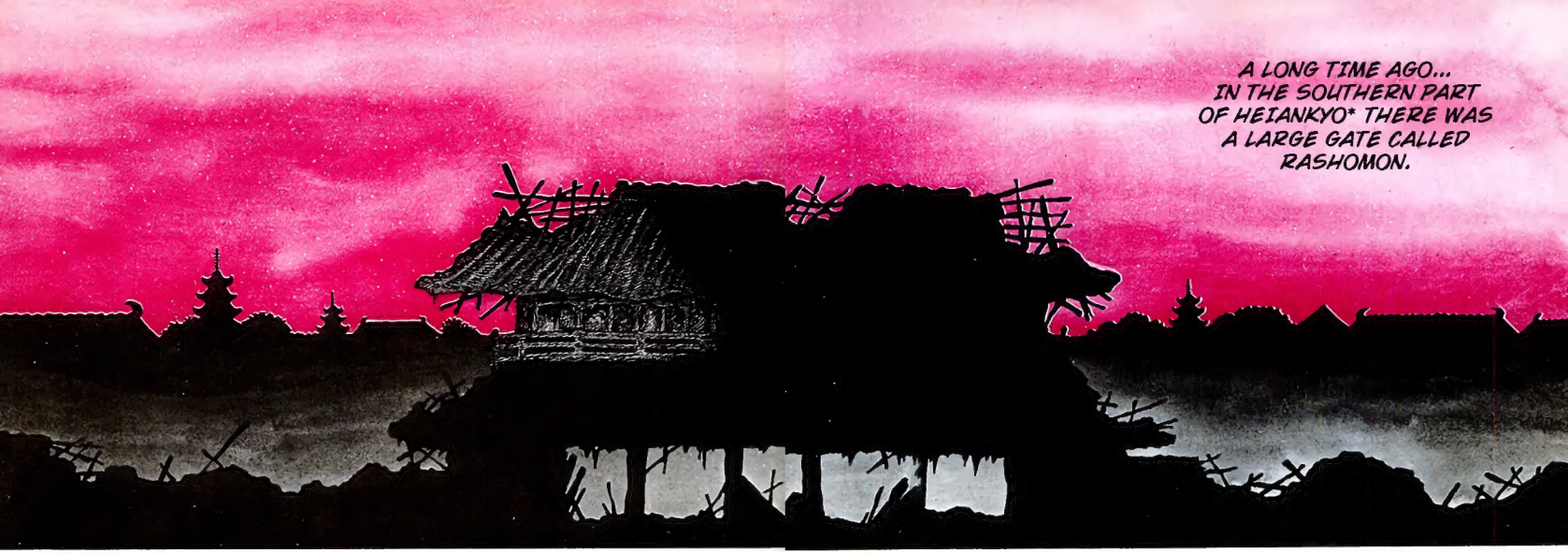
羅生門の妖怪

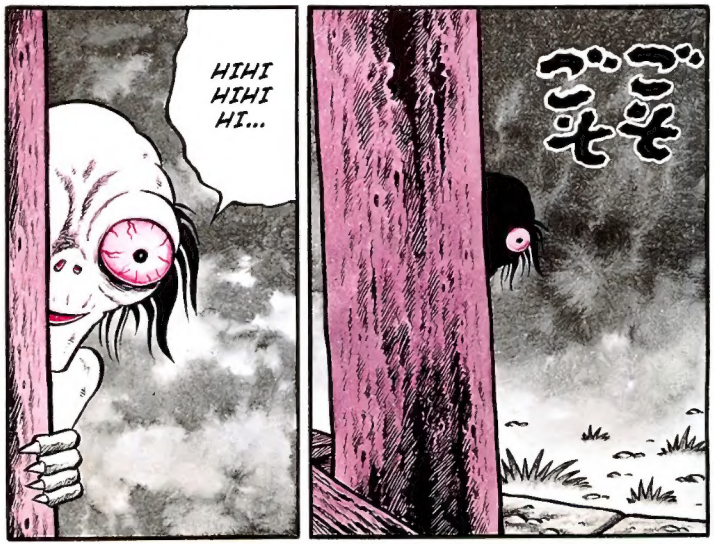
らしょうもん　ようかい

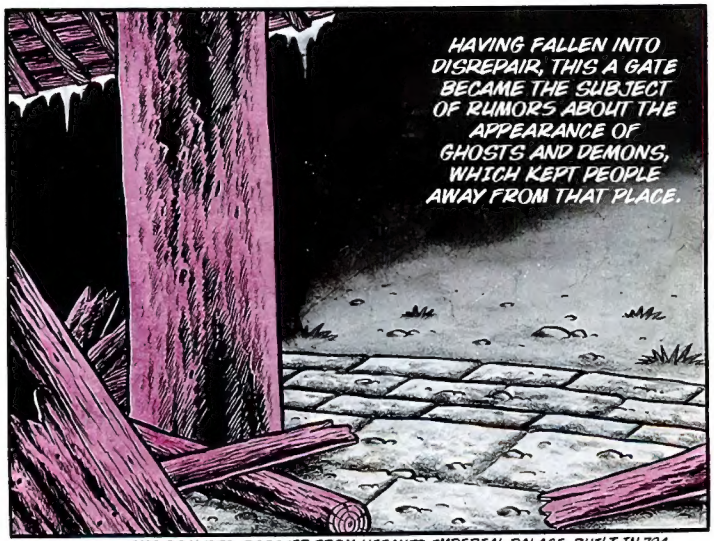
日野日出志

THE DEMON OF RASHOMON

日野日出志

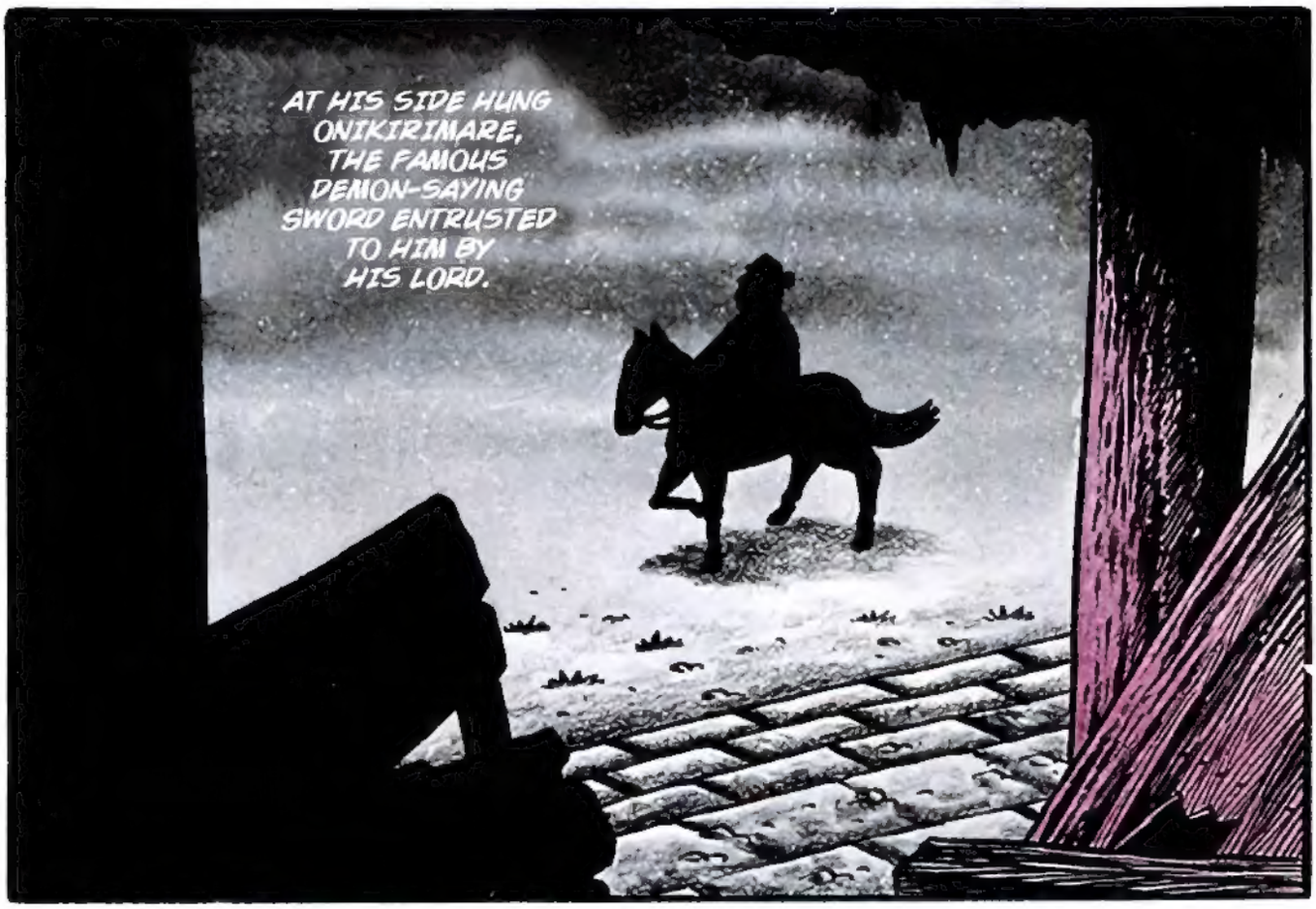




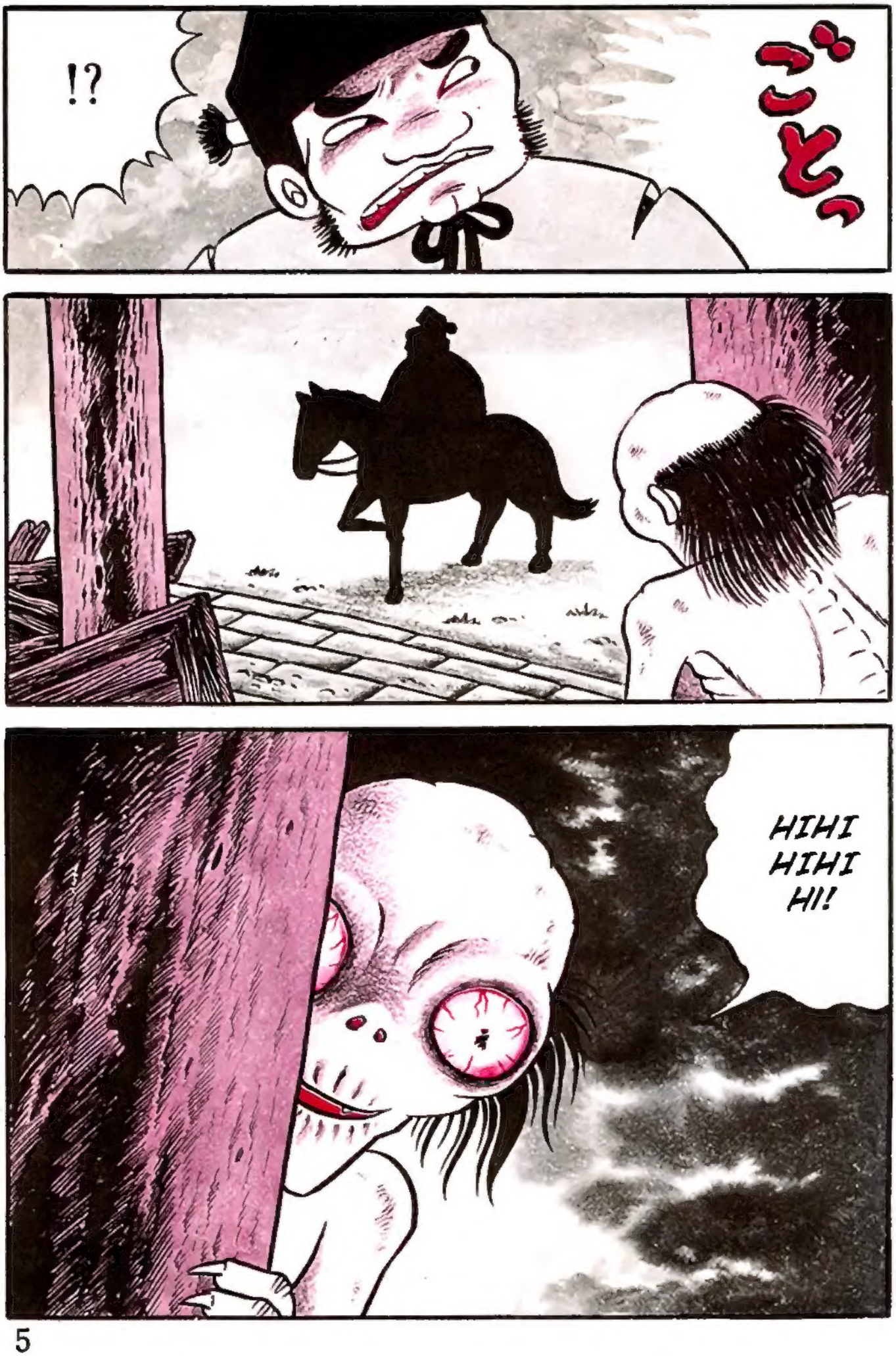


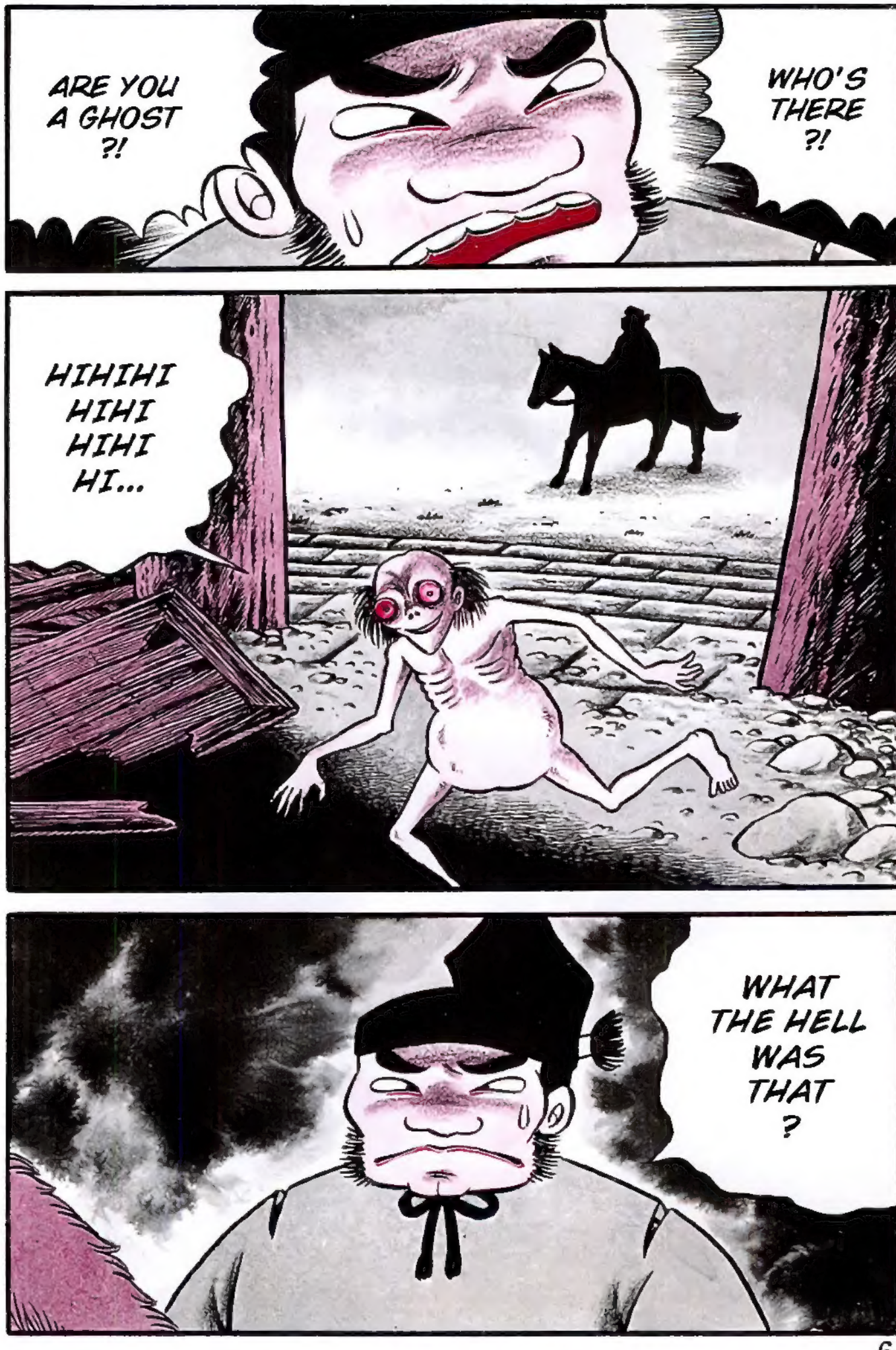
*ANCIENT NAME OF KYOTO, DERIVED FROM HEIANJO IMPERIAL PALACE, BUILT IN 794. HEIANKYO TRANSLATES TO "CITY OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY".

HAVING HEARD OF SUCH RUMORS, THE SAMURAI WATANABE NO TSUNA...
...RODE THERE ON HIS HORSE TO DISPATCH THESE DEMONS.

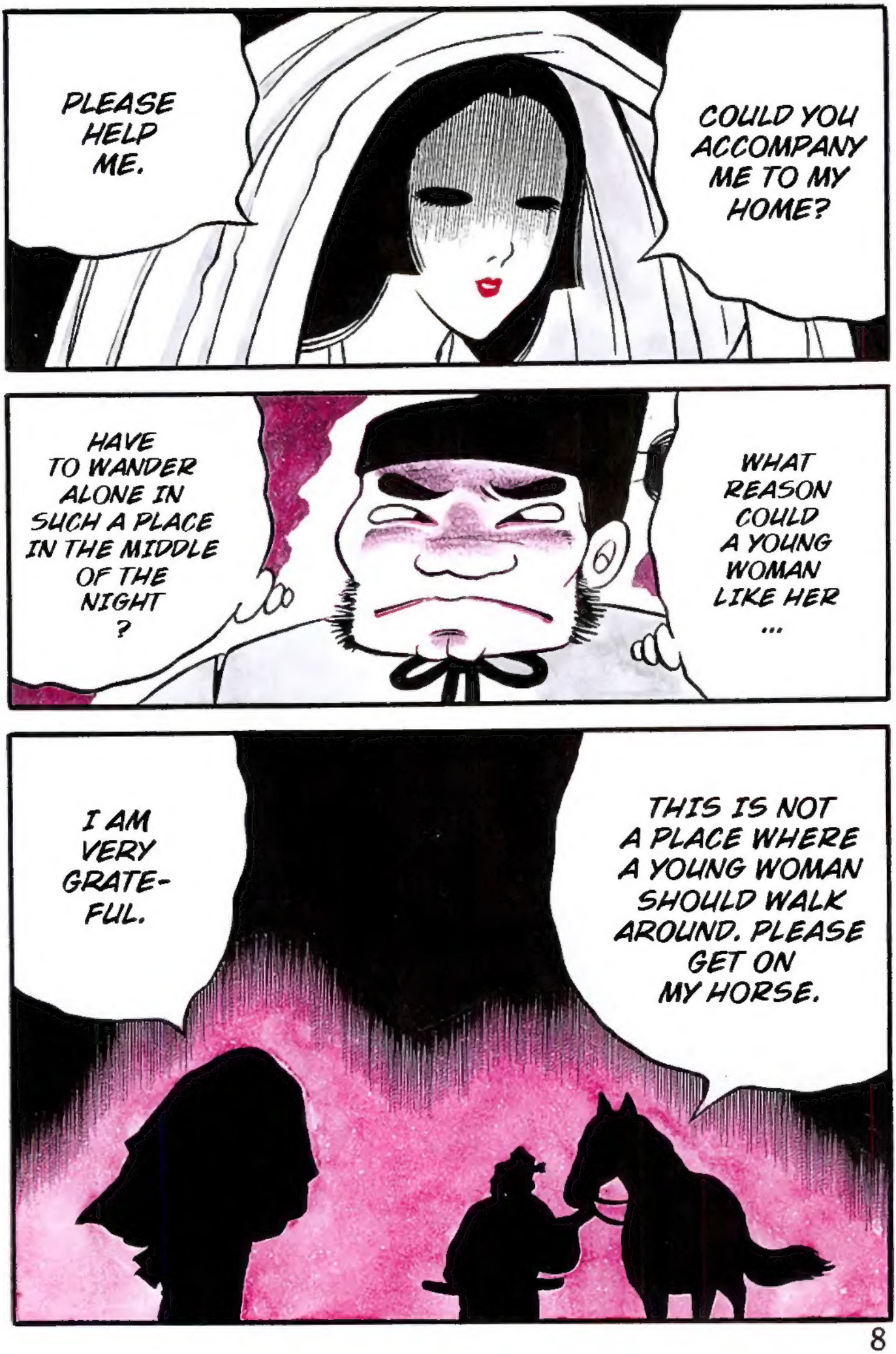

AT HIS SIDE HUNG ONIKIRIMARE, THE FAMOUS DEMON-SAYING SWORD ENTRUSTED TO HIM BY HIS LORD.

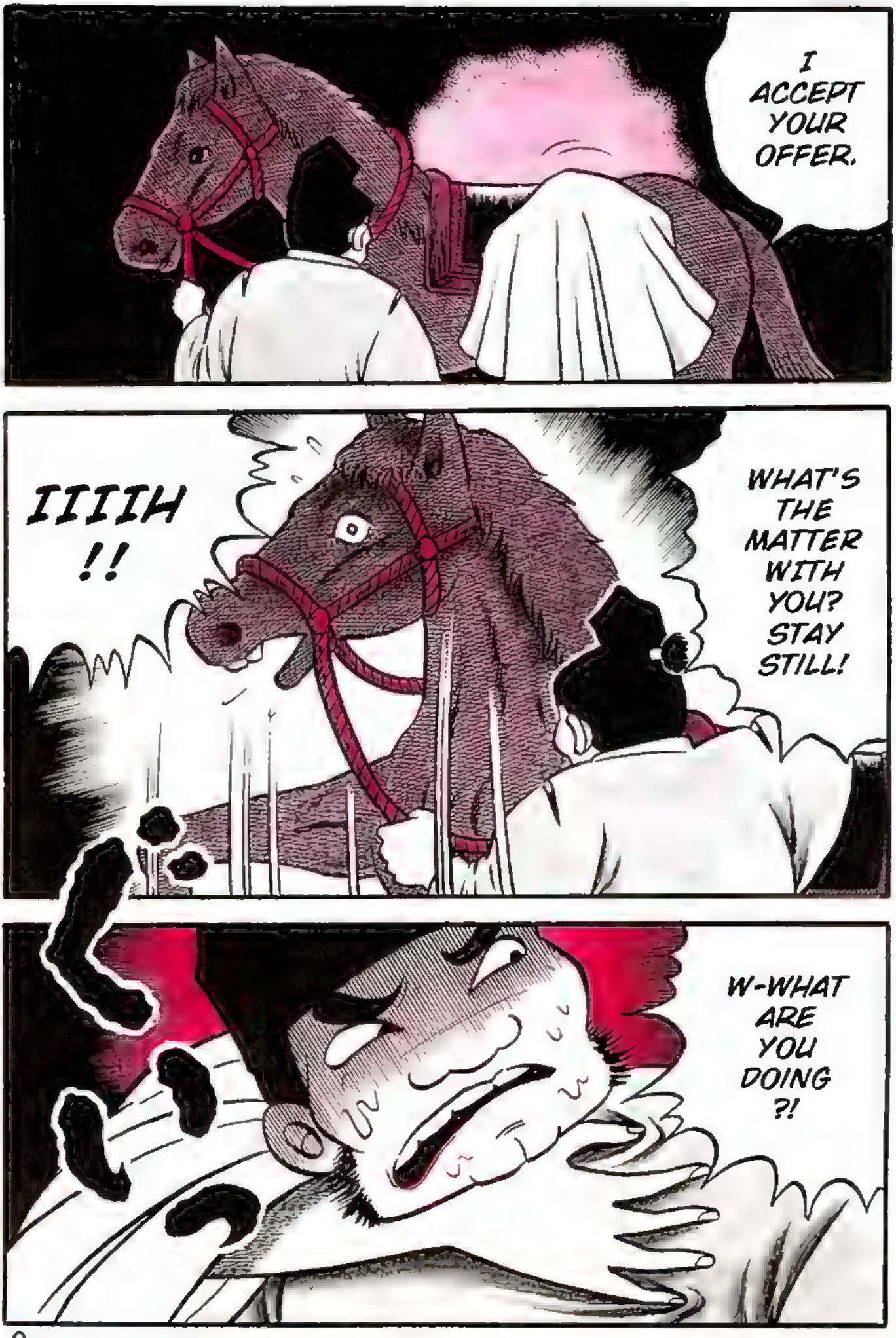
SO THIS IS THE INFAMOUS RASHO-MON?
HMMM ...

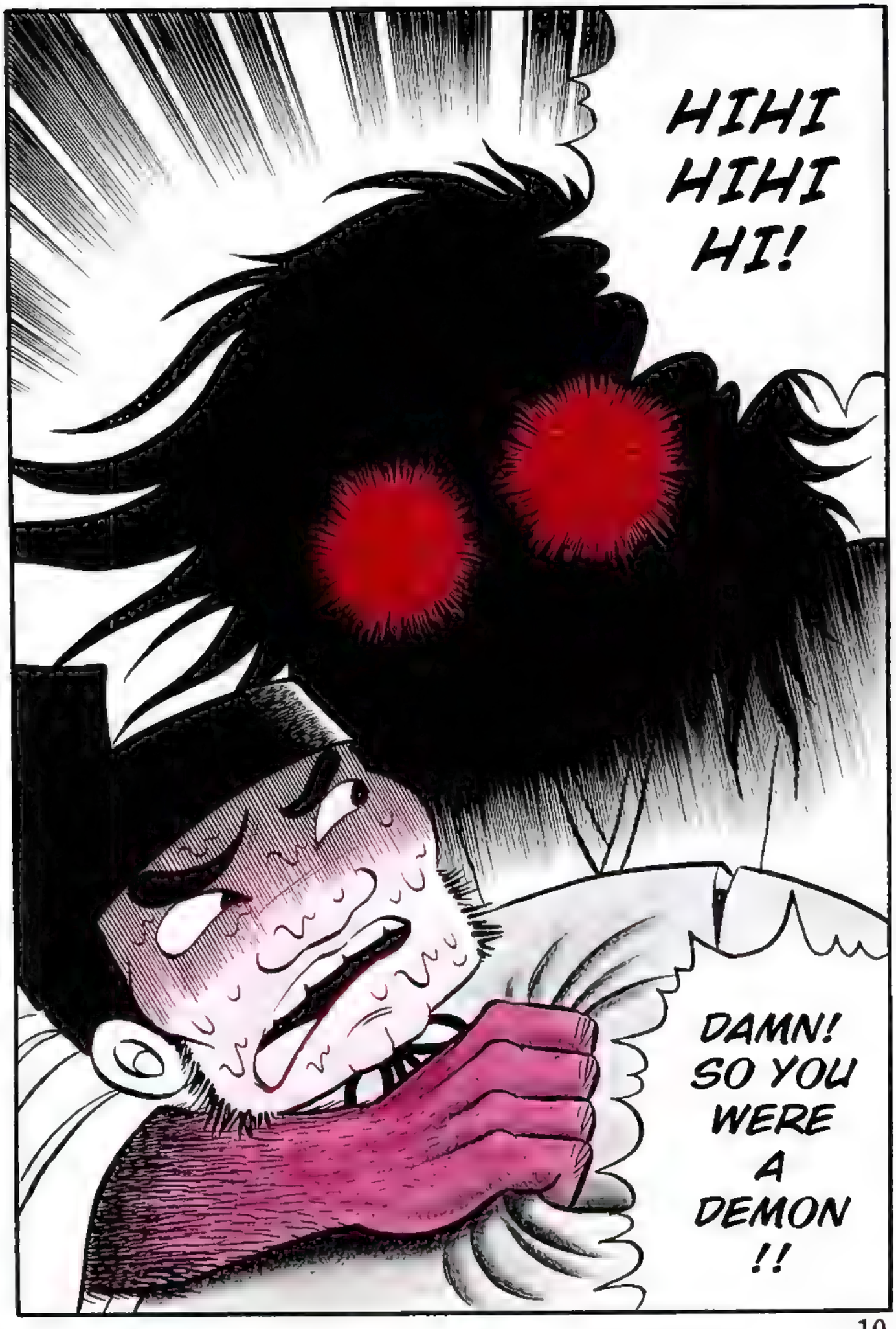

!?
HIHI
HIHI
HI!

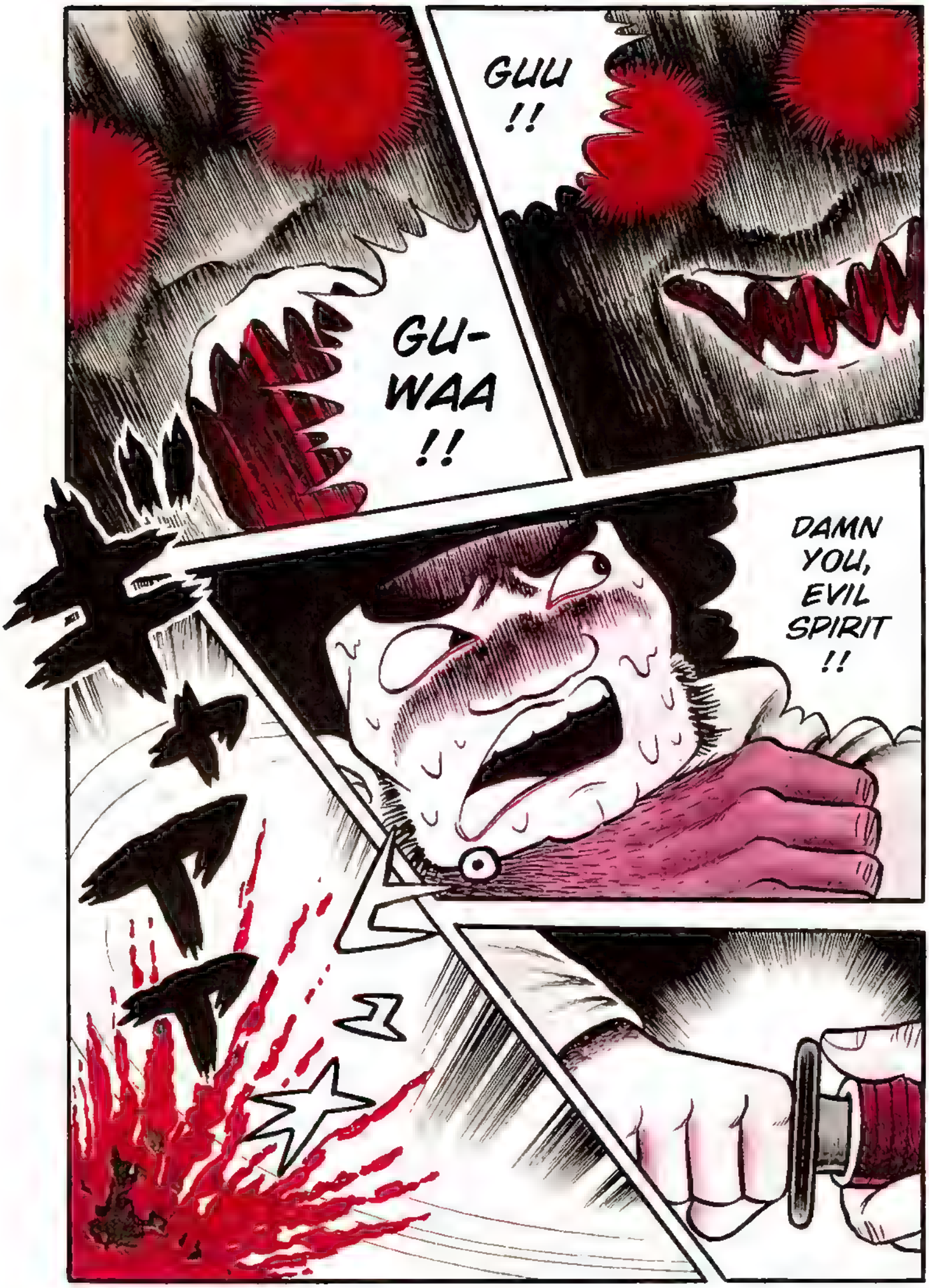

ARE YOU A GHOST ?!
WHO'S THERE ?!
HIHIHI HIHI HIHI HI...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ?

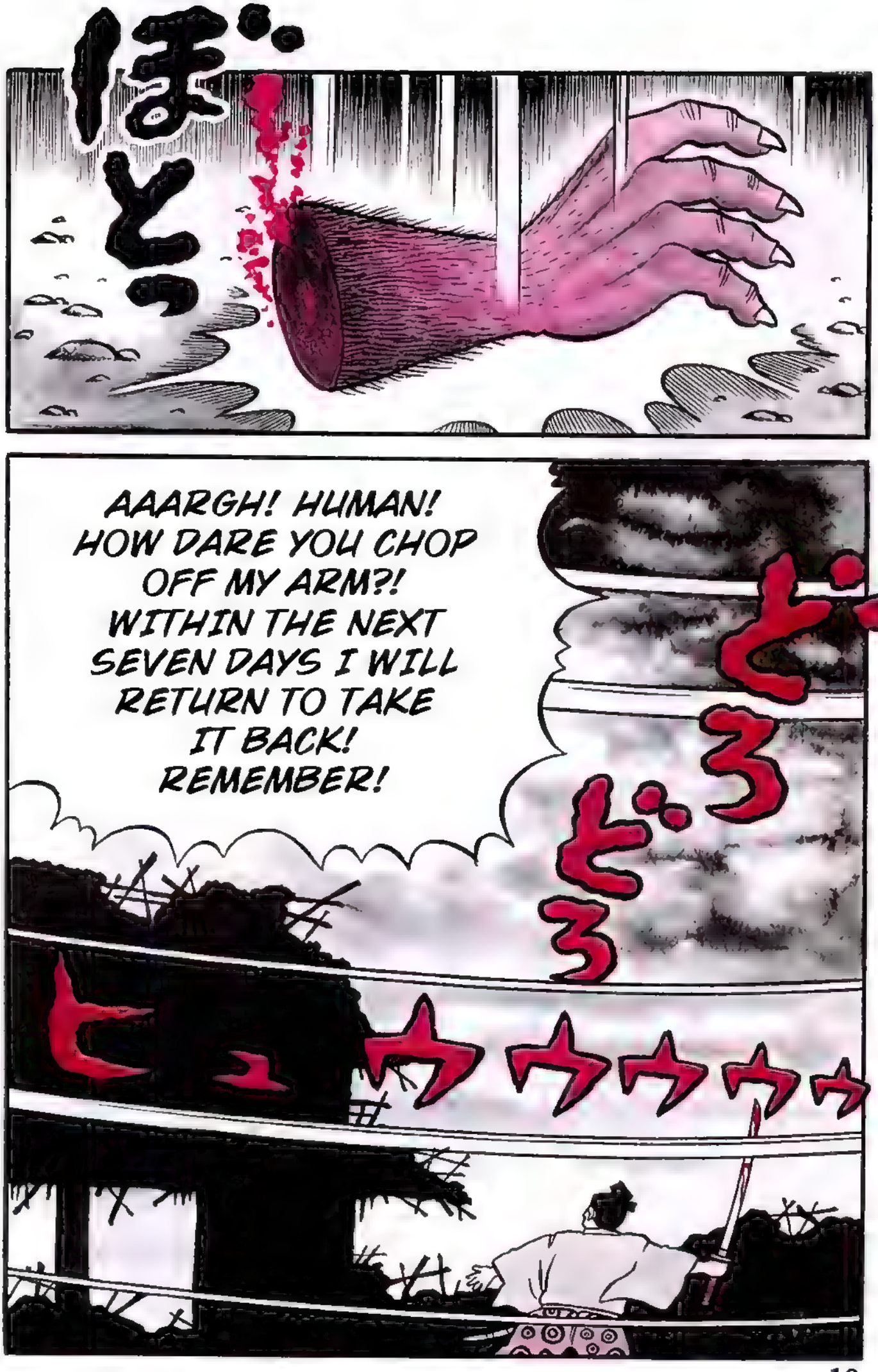
EXCUSE ME...
!?
I WAS RETURNING TO MY HOUSE IN THE GOJO DISTRICT, BUT I LOST MY WAY BECAUSE IT IS DARK AND NOW I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET THERE.
NOBLE SAMURAI, I APOLO-GIZE FOR STOPPING YOU.

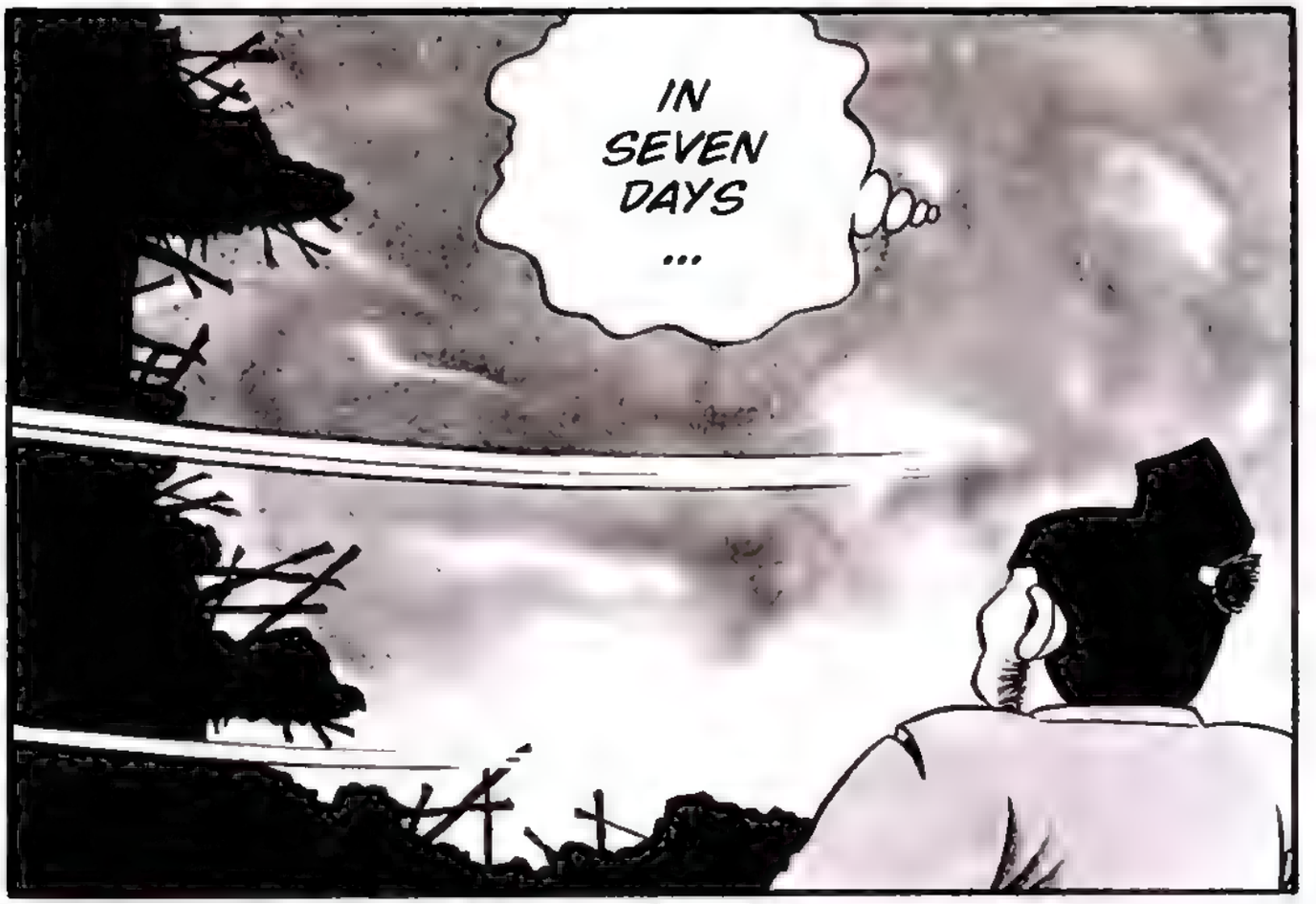

PLEASE HELP ME.
COULD YOU ACCOMPANY ME TO MY HOME?
HAVE TO WANDER ALONE IN SUCH A PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ?
WHAT REASON COULD A YOUNG WOMAN LIKE HER ...
I AM VERY GRATE-FUL.
THIS IS NOT A PLACE WHERE A YOUNG WOMAN SHOULD WALK AROUND. PLEASE GET ON MY HORSE.


I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.
IIIIH !!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? STAY STILL!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!

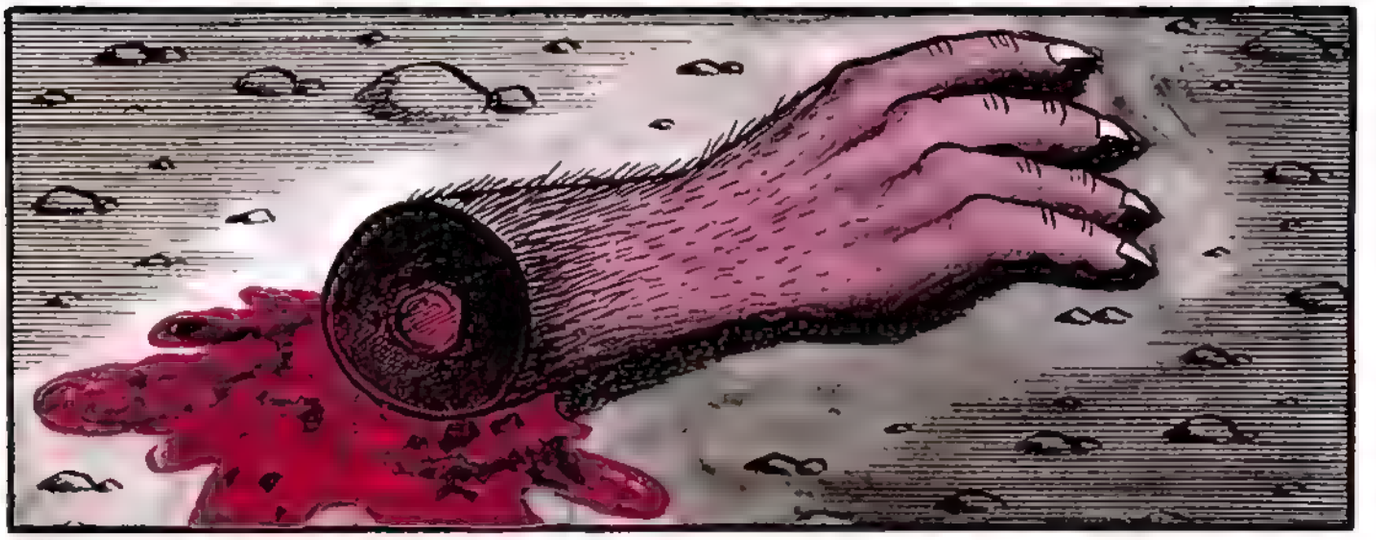

HIHI
HIHI
HI!
DAMN!
SO YOU
WERE
A
DEMON
!!

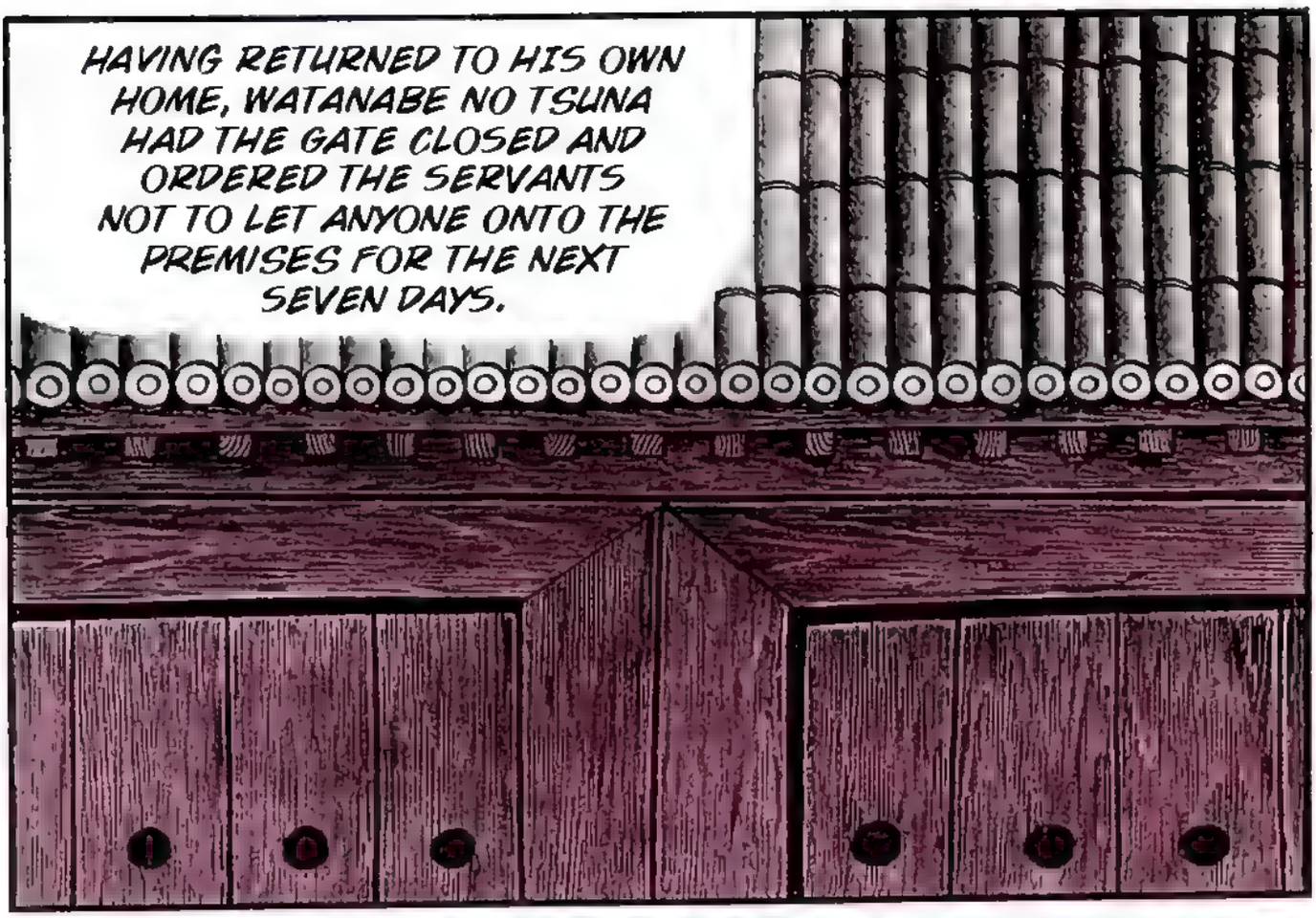

GUU !!
GU-WAA !!
DAMN YOU, EVIL SPIRIT !!


ぼとっ
AAARGH! HUMAN! HOW DARE YOU CHOP OFF MY ARM?! WITHIN THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS I WILL RETURN TO TAKE IT BACK! REMEMBER!
どどどど
ヒューウウウウ


IN SEVEN DAYS ...

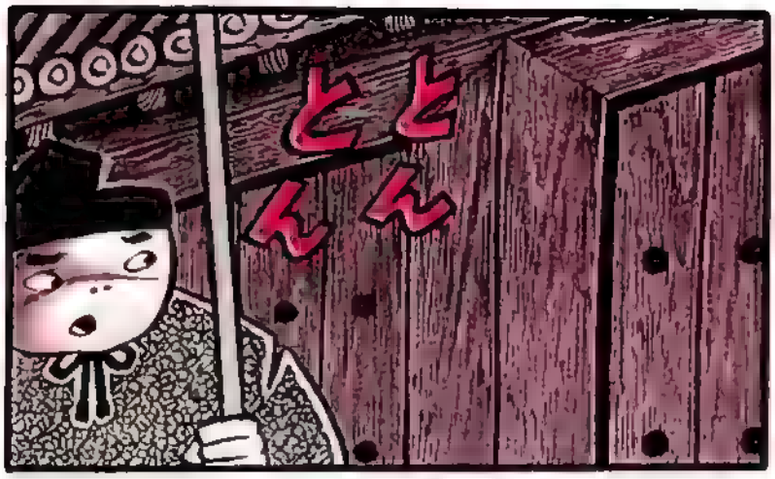
DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE STRENGTH OF MY ONIKIRI-MARU?
EVIL SPIRIT ...




HAVING RETURNED TO HIS OWN HOME, WATANABE NO TSUNA HAD THE GATE CLOSED AND ORDERED THE SERVANTS NOT TO LET ANYONE ONTO THE PREMISES FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS.

...WHICH HE LOCKED FIRMLY.
HE THEN PUT THE MONSTER'S HAND INTO A STURDY BOX...

THAT FIEND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET ITS HAND BACK.


とんとん

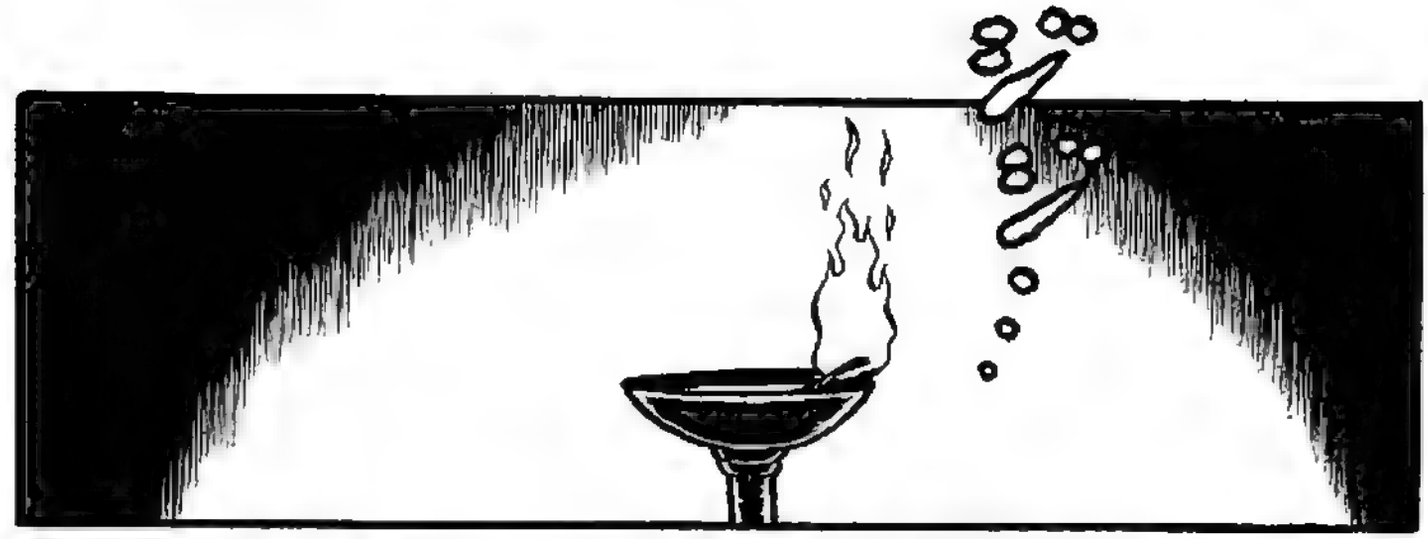
WHO'S THERE ?

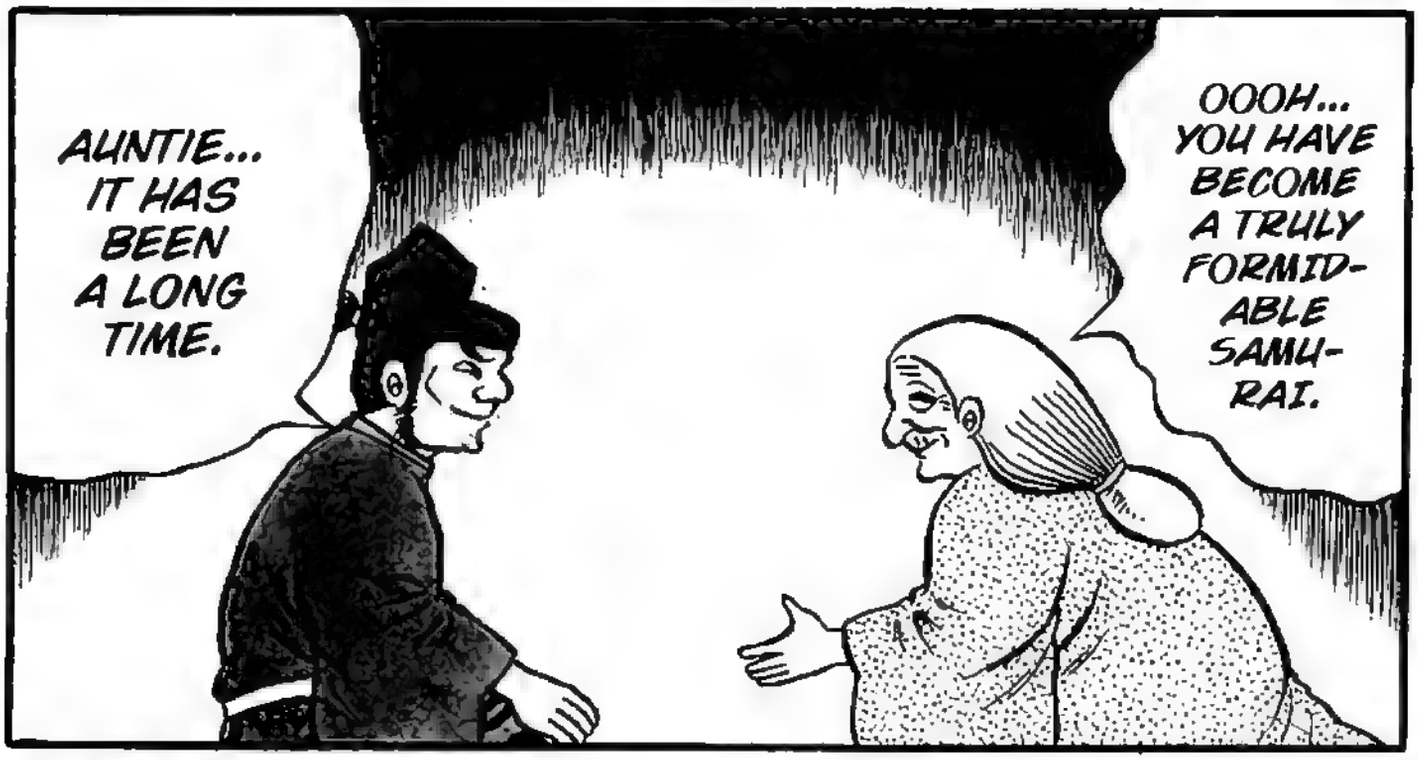
I AM TSUNA'S AUNT. I HAVE COME TO VISIT FROM THE DISTANT WATANABE HOME VILLAGE.

IT IS AN ORDER FROM OUR LORD.
WE CAN'T OPEN THE GATE.

FINALLY, THE EVENING OF THE SEVENTH DAY ARRIVED.
カーカー
カーカー

DON'T YOU FIND IT SHAMEFUL TO TURN ME BACK LIKE THIS? PASS ON MY MESSAGE TO TSUNA.
I AM THE AUNT WHO RAISED HIM FROM AN EARLY AGE INSTEAD OF HIS MOTHER.
IF THAT'S HIS AUNT, WE HAVE TO TELL HIM.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
BRING HER HERE IMMEDI-ATELY!
UNDER-STOOD.
A-AS YOU COMMAND.



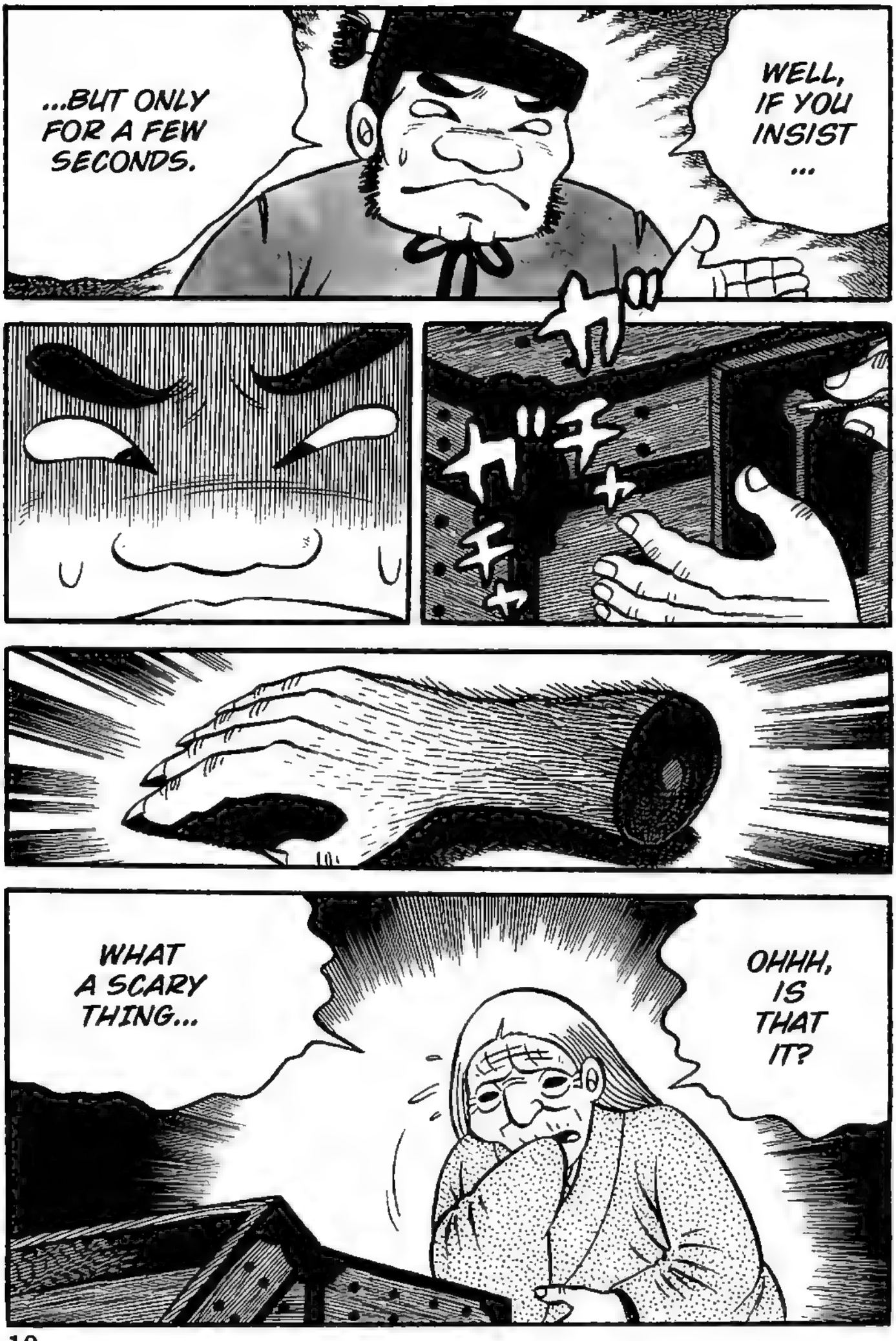

AUNTIE... IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME.
OOOH... YOU HAVE BECOME A TRULY FORMID-ABLE SAMU-RAI.

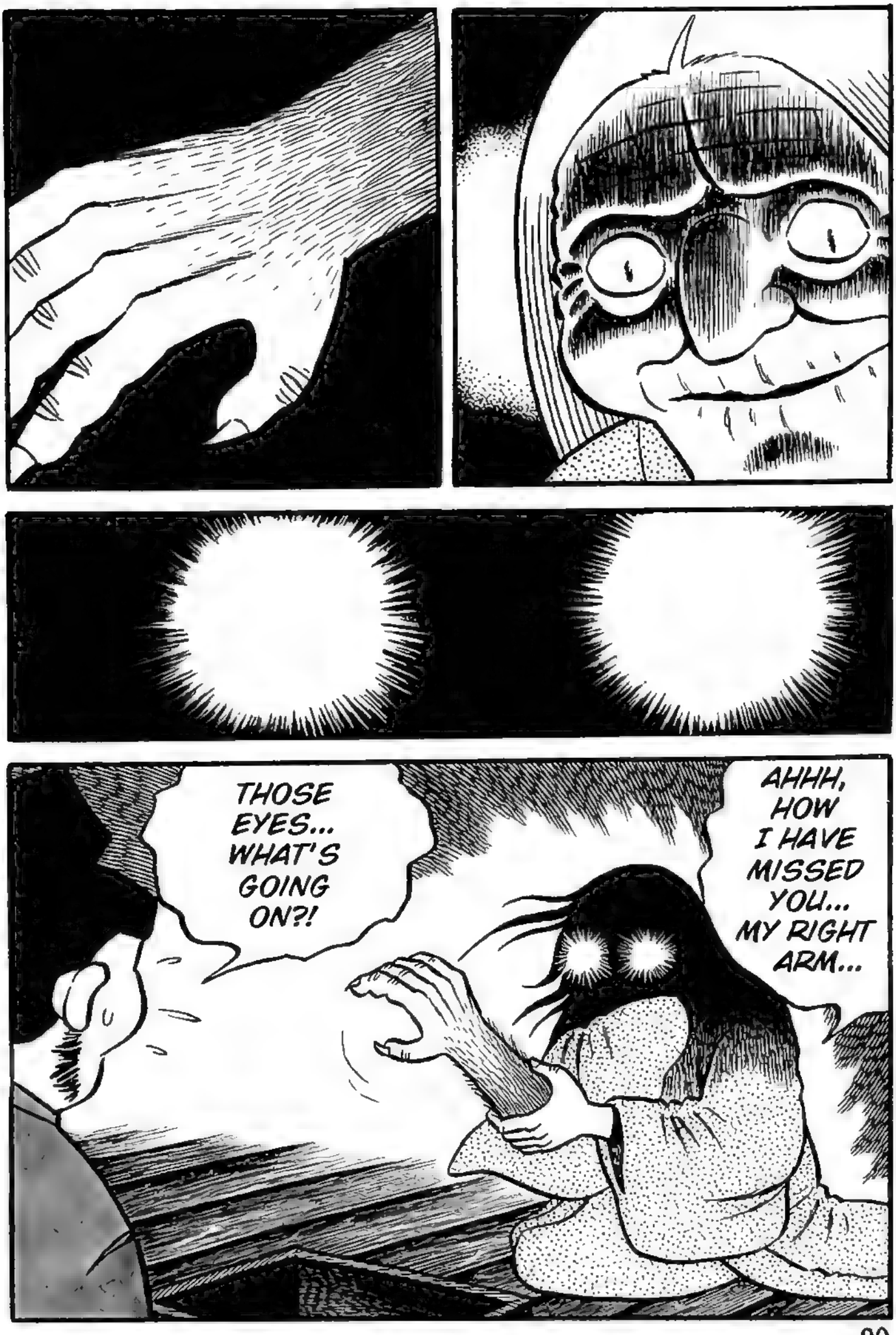
AND SO TSUNA EXPLAINED THE REASON TO HER.

WELL...

HOW COME YOU KEEP THE GATE CLOSED AND WON'T LET ANYONE INSIDE?

WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING IT TO ME ?
OOOH! SO YOU CUT OFF THE ARM OF ONE OF THE RASHOMON MONSTERS.
I'M AFRIAD I CAN'T DO THAT.
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE MY AUNT ...
I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THAT MONSTER'S ARM.
I AM OLD NOW AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN I MIGHT DIE.
UMM ...
TSUNA, YOU REALLY REFUSE TO SHOW IT TO ME? IT'S THE ONLY THING I HAVE EVER ASKED OF YOU IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.


...BUT ONLY FOR A FEW SECONDS.
WELL, IF YOU INSIST ...
ガチャ
WHAT A SCARY THING...
OHHH, IS THAT IT?


THOSE EYES... WHAT'S GOING ON?!
AHHH, HOW I HAVE MISSED YOU... MY RIGHT ARM...

YOU ARE THAT MON-STER ?!

FINALLY YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR TRUE SELF!

HIHI
HIHI
HIHI
HI!
DAMN
YOU!
I GOT
MY ARM
BACK,
JUST LIKE
I PRO-
MISED.

TSUNA BLAMED HIMSELF AS THE MONSTER SUDDENLY DISAP-PEARED.
I WAS CARE-LESS!
THE MONSTER, HOWEVER, NOW FEARED TSUNA. SO MUCH SO, THAT IT NEVER SHOWED ITSELF AT RASHOMON EVER AGAIN.
AFTER WHICH A DARK LAUGHTER ECHOED ACROSS THE PITCH-BLACK SKY.
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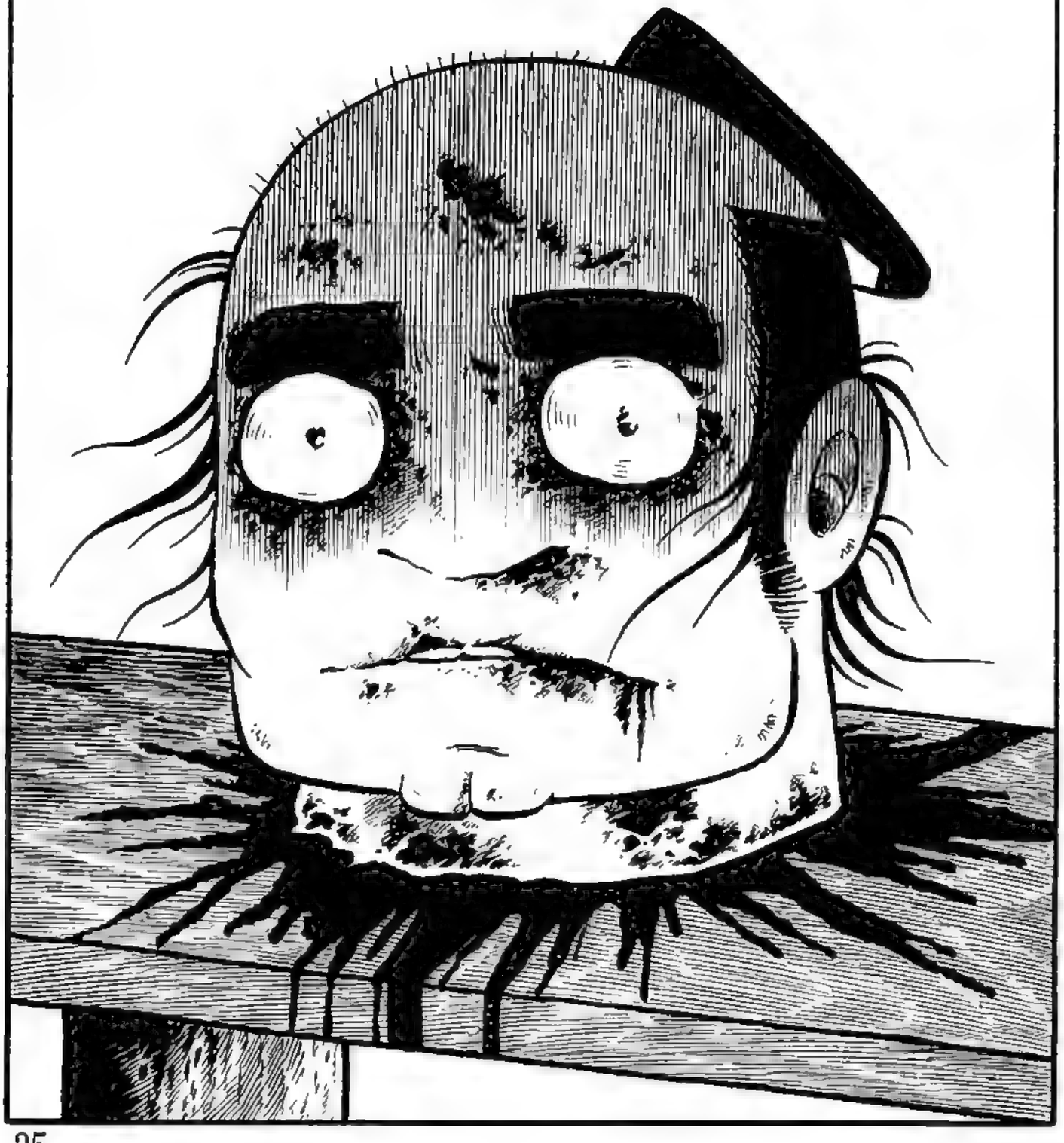
REVENGE OF THE SEVERED HEAD



A LONG TIME AGO... IN THE PROVINCE OF HARIMA THERE STOOD A SMALL CASTLE.
WHOSE NAME WAS JINJURO IGAKI.
THE LOCAL DAIMYO HAD AT HIS SERVICE A GREAT SAMURAI...
THE DAIMYO HELD JINJURO IN HIGH REGARD, AND TURNED TO HIM FOR ANYTHING.

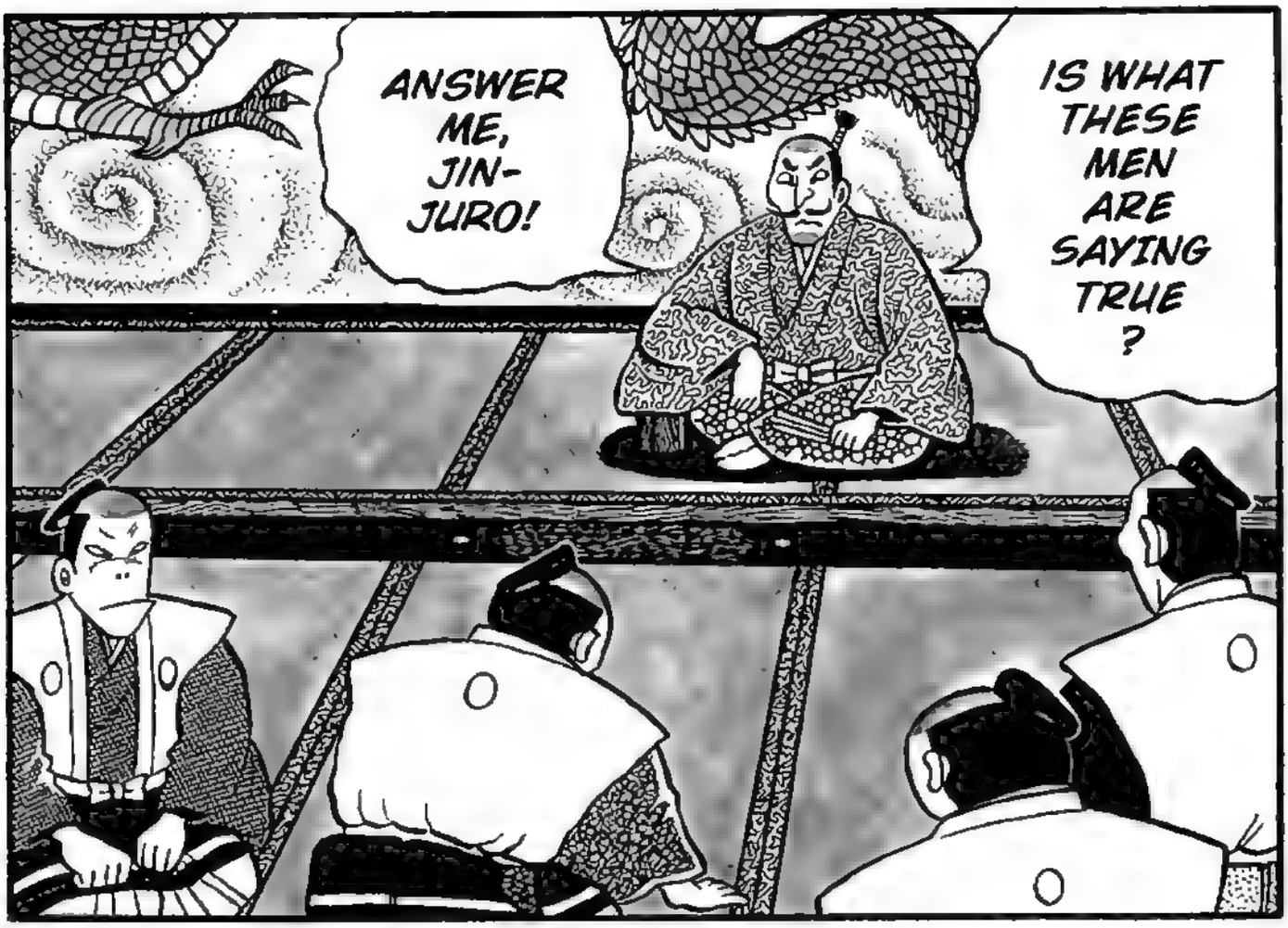
BUT THAT GAVE RISE TO ENVY.

YOU'RE RIGHT... IS THERE NO WAY TO GET RID OF HIM?
AS LONG AS JINJURO IS AROUND, WE WILL NEVER GET AHEAD.

PSS... PSS...
BLA... BLA...

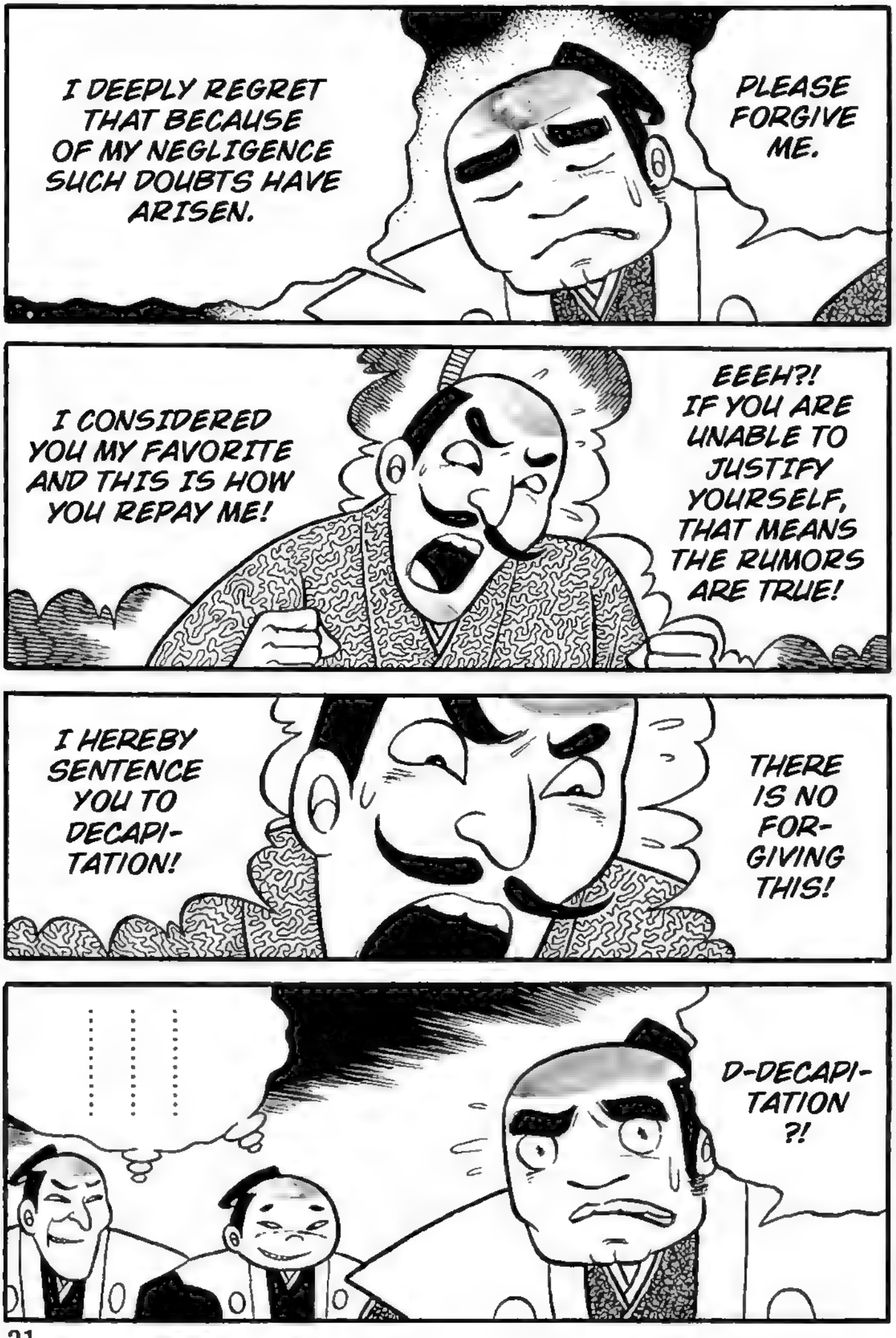
FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE SAMURAI STARTED TO SPREAD FALSE RUMORS ABOUT JINJURO.
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE JINJURO WOULD DO THAT!
DON'T LIE TO ME !!
THIS HAS TO BE A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING!
BETTER BEWARE. IT JUST MIGHT BE THE TRUTH.

THE LORD INITIALLY GAVE LITTLE CREDENCE TO THEIR WORDS, BUT GIVEN THEIR INSISTENCE...
WOULDN'T IT BE APPROPRIATE TO TAKE SOME ACTION?
AND THAT'S HOW IT IS.
SINCE YOU ARE SO INSISTENT, WE SHOULD GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
HMM... I UNDERSTAND.
WE WILL TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY!
HIHIHI HIHI HI!


ANSWER ME, JIN-JURO!
IS WHAT THESE MEN ARE SAYING TRUE?

MY LORD, DO YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT ME?

I DON'T KNOW! THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU! DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, JINJURO?


I DEEPLY REGRET THAT BECAUSE OF MY NEGLIGENCE SUCH DOUBTS HAVE ARISEN.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I CONSIDERED YOU MY FAVORITE AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME!
EEEH?! IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO JUSTIFY YOURSELF, THAT MEANS THE RUMORS ARE TRUE!
I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO DECAPI-TATION!
THERE IS NO FOR-GIVING THIS!
D-DECAPI-TATION ?!

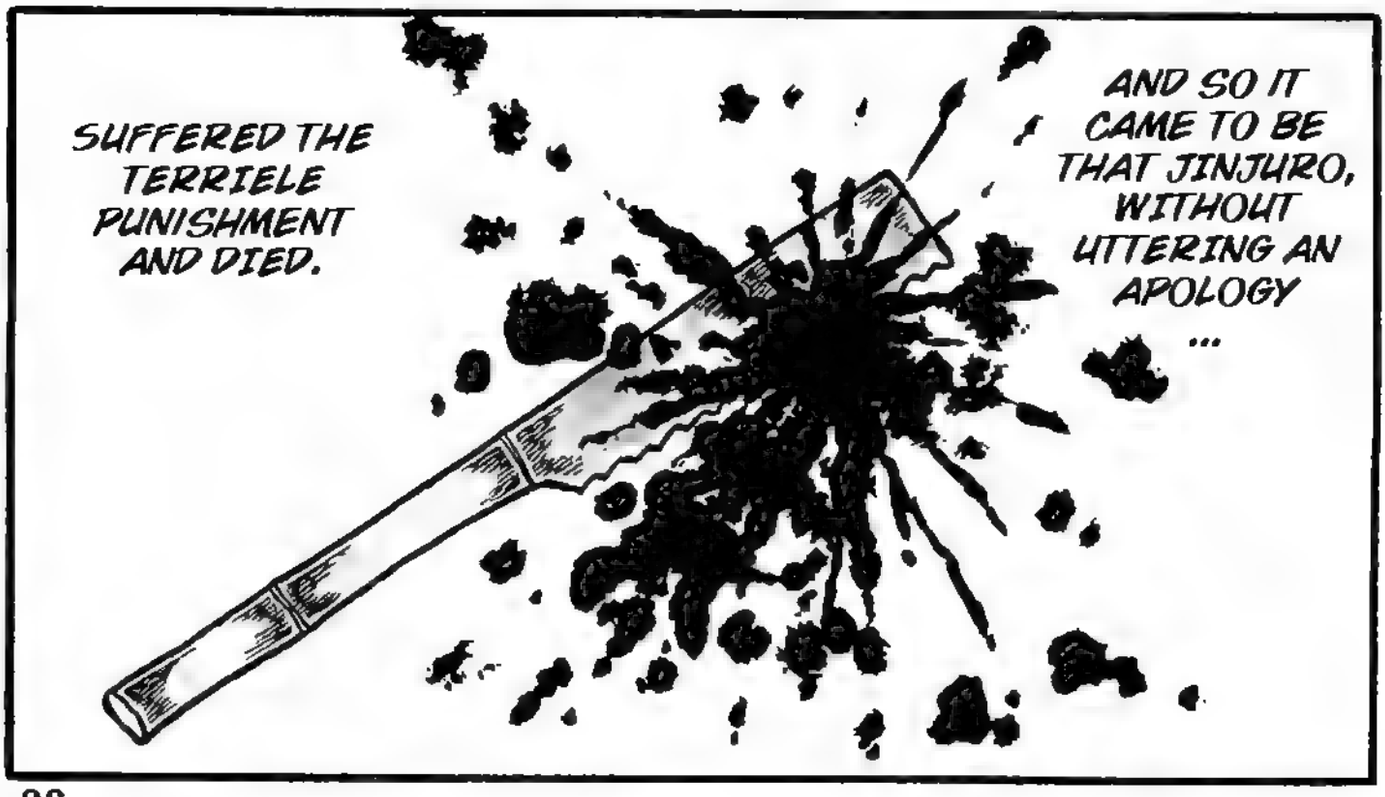
...WAITING FOR YOUR HEAD TO BE CUT OFF WITH A BAMBOO SAW.
IT WAS A CRUEL PUNISHMENT, WHICH INVOLVED BEING TIED TO A TREE...

UMM ...
わいわいがやがや
ANY LAST WORDS, IGAKI?

HOWEVER, I HAVE ONE FINAL REQUEST ...
THIS IS THE RESULT OF MY NEGLIGENCE, SO I HOLD NO GRUDGE AGAINST MY LORD.

I WILL PROVE MY INNOCENCE TO YOU.
AFTER YOU HAVE BE-HEADED ME, THROW MY HEAD INTO THE RIVER.

VERY WELL, THE DAIMYO WILL BE NOTIFIED.


SUFFERED THE TERRIELE PUNISHMENT AND DIED.
AND SO IT CAME TO BE THAT JINJURO, WITHOUT UTTERING AN APOLOGY ...

HIS HEAD WAS LEFT ON DISPLAY AT THE SIDE OF A ROAD FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

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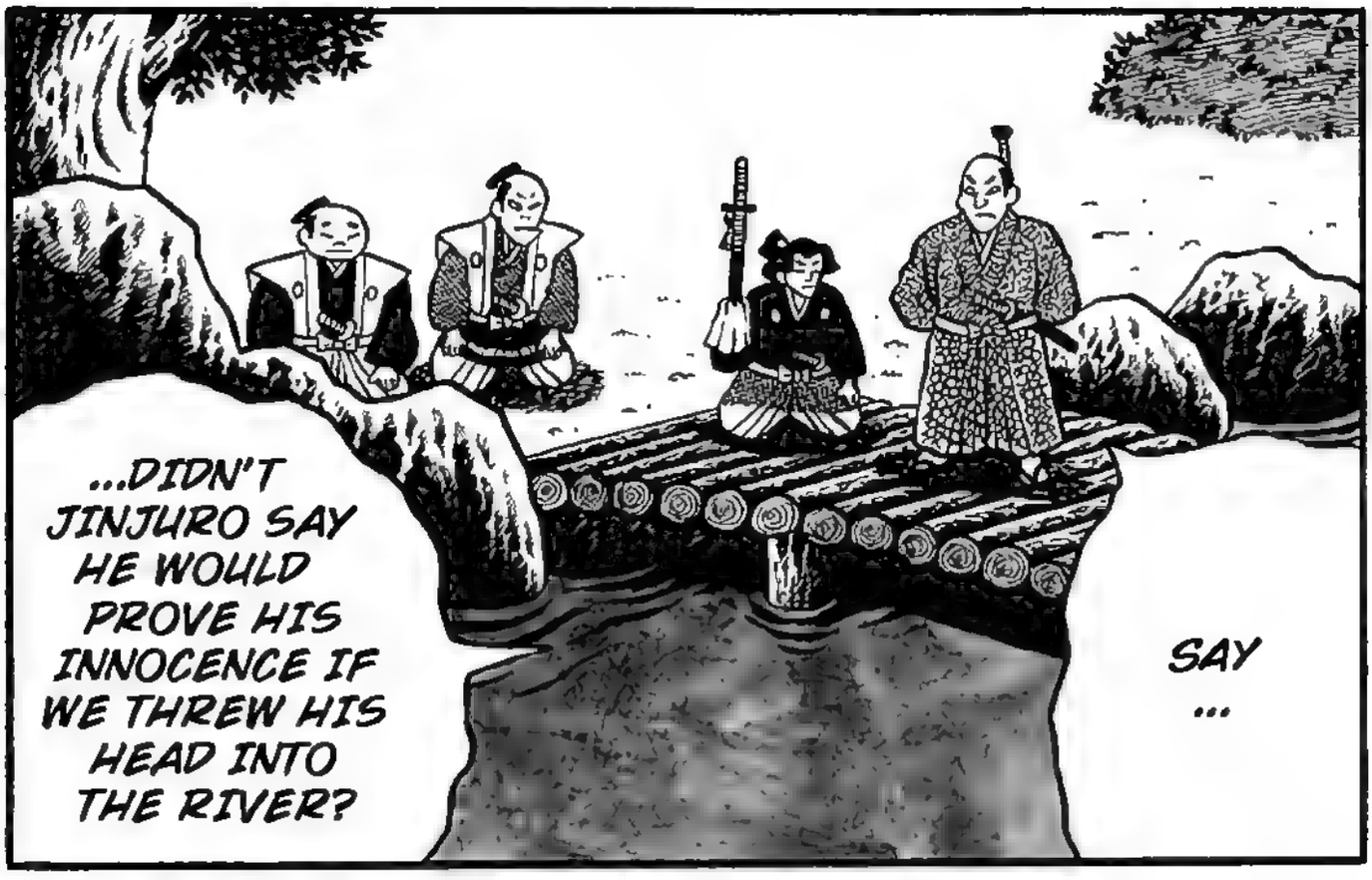
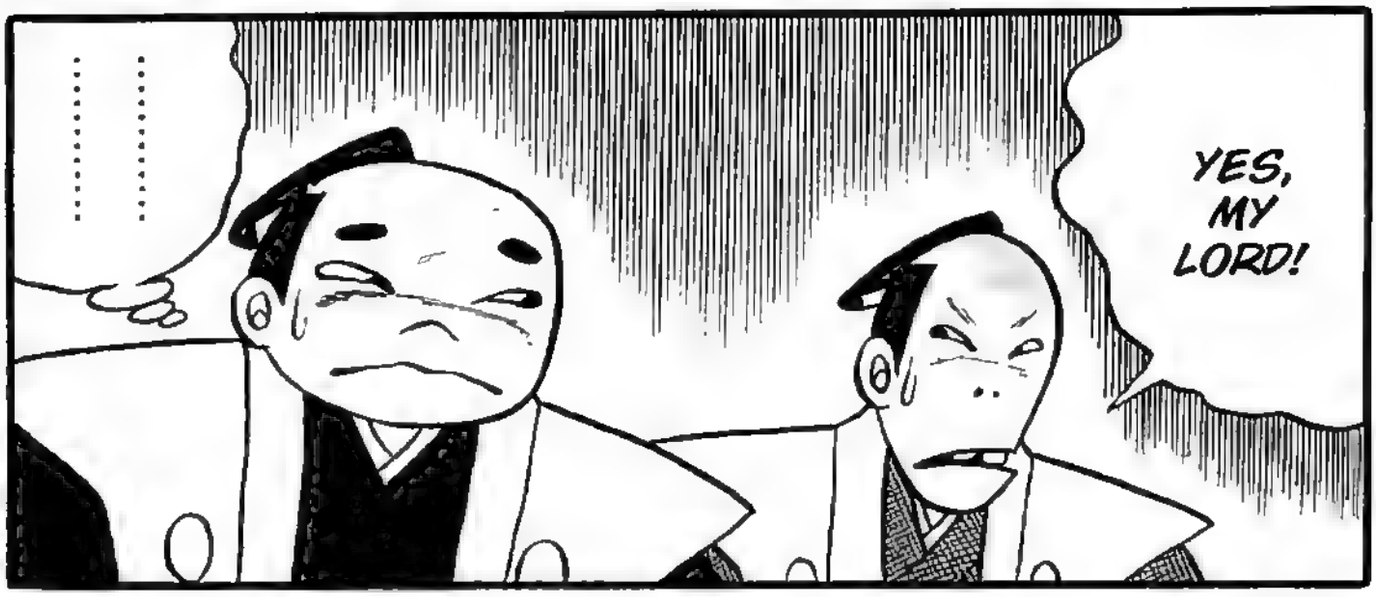
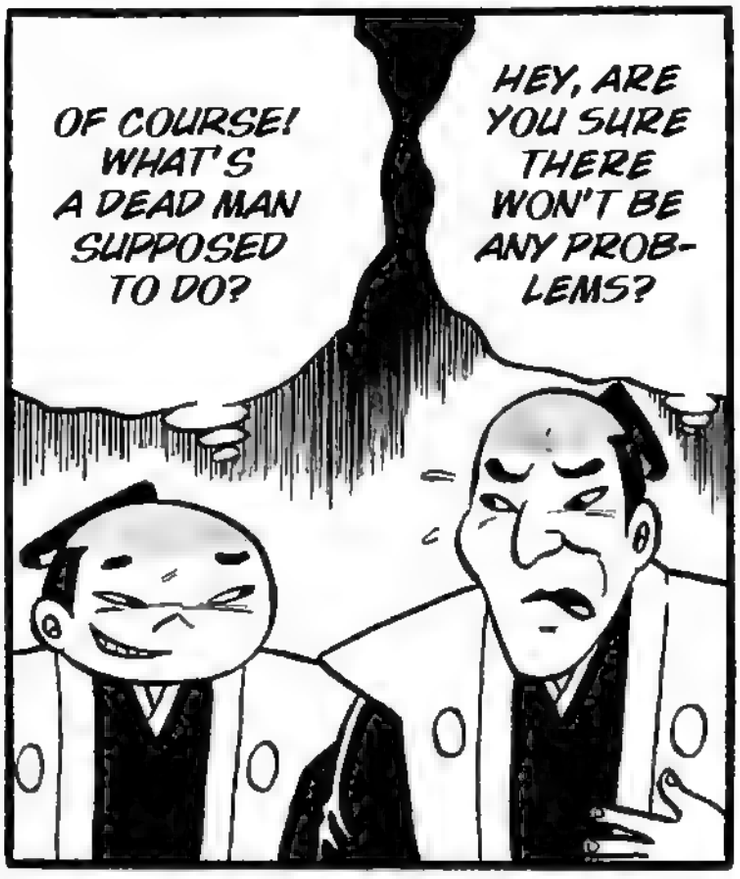
ピシッ


...DIDN'T JINJURO SAY HE WOULD PROVE HIS INNOCENCE IF WE THREW HIS HEAD INTO THE RIVER?
SAY ...

HURRY UP AND DO WHAT HE ASKED FOR!

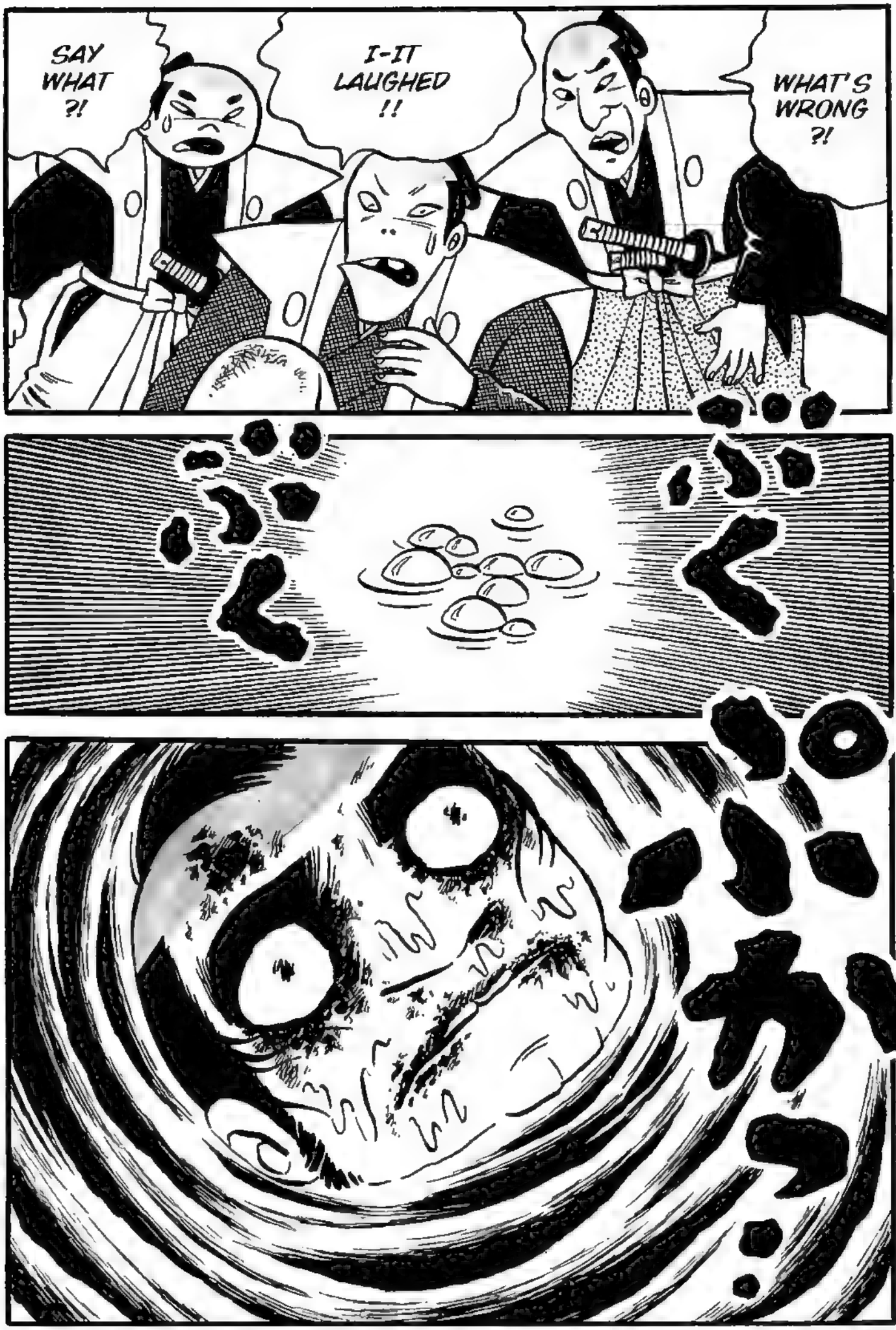

.....
YES, MY LORD!


HEY, ARE YOU SURE THERE WON'T BE ANY PROB-LEMS?
OF COURSE! WHAT'S A DEAD MAN SUPPOSED TO DO?

HE'S NOT EXACTLY NICE TO LOOK AT IN THIS STATE.

THE NEXT DAY, THE SAMURAI AND SEVERAL BYSTANDERS GATHERED ON THE RIVERBANK.

HU
HU
HU
WAH
!!
ボキッ
!!

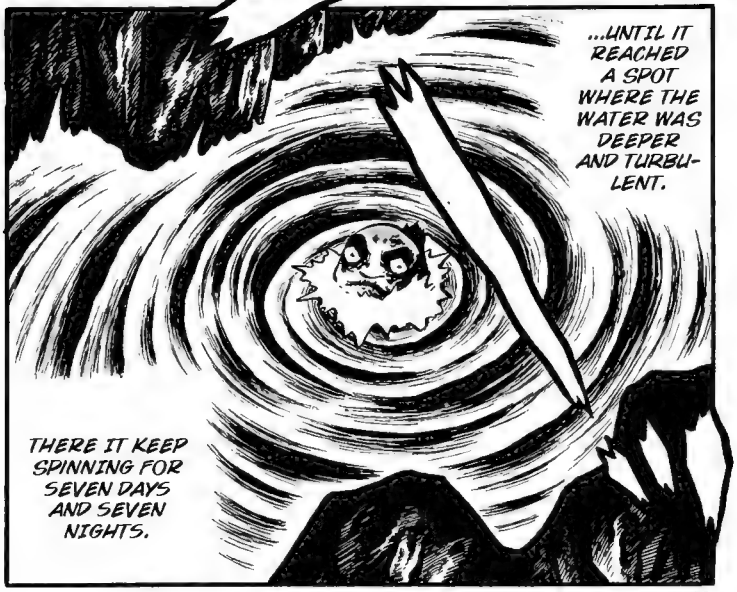

SAY WHAT ?!
I-IT LAUGHED !!
WHAT'S WRONG ?!

GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! YOU IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING!
NO... I REALLY THOUGHT ...
DON'T TALK NON-SENSE!
OHH! THE HEAD CAME BACK UP!

UWA
!!

ざわ
ざわ
WHAT THE ...
ホーッ
AHH! IT OPENED ITS MOUTH!
BRR! BRR!
UAAAH!
IT'S STARING AT US!

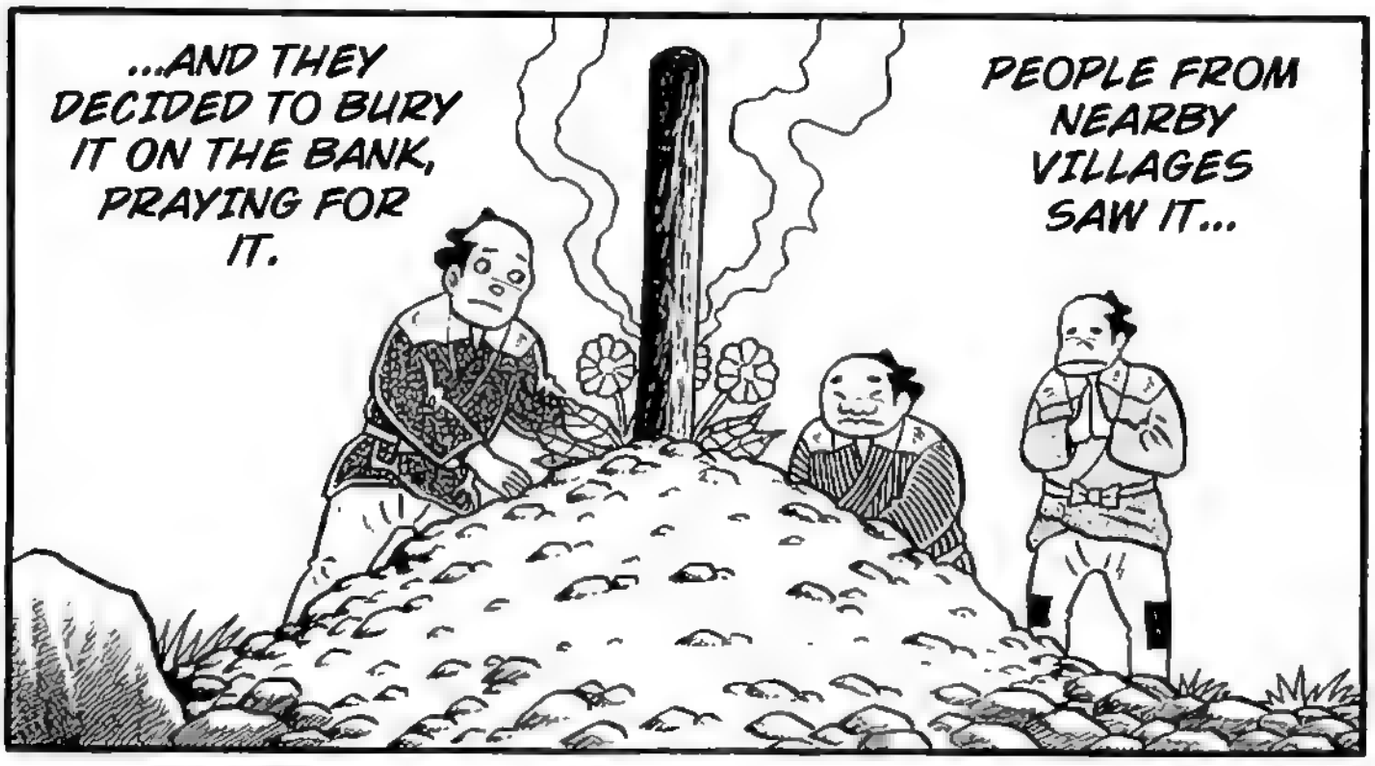
TO THE SURPRISE OF THE ONLOOKERS, THE HEAD BEGAN TO GO UP THE RIVER...

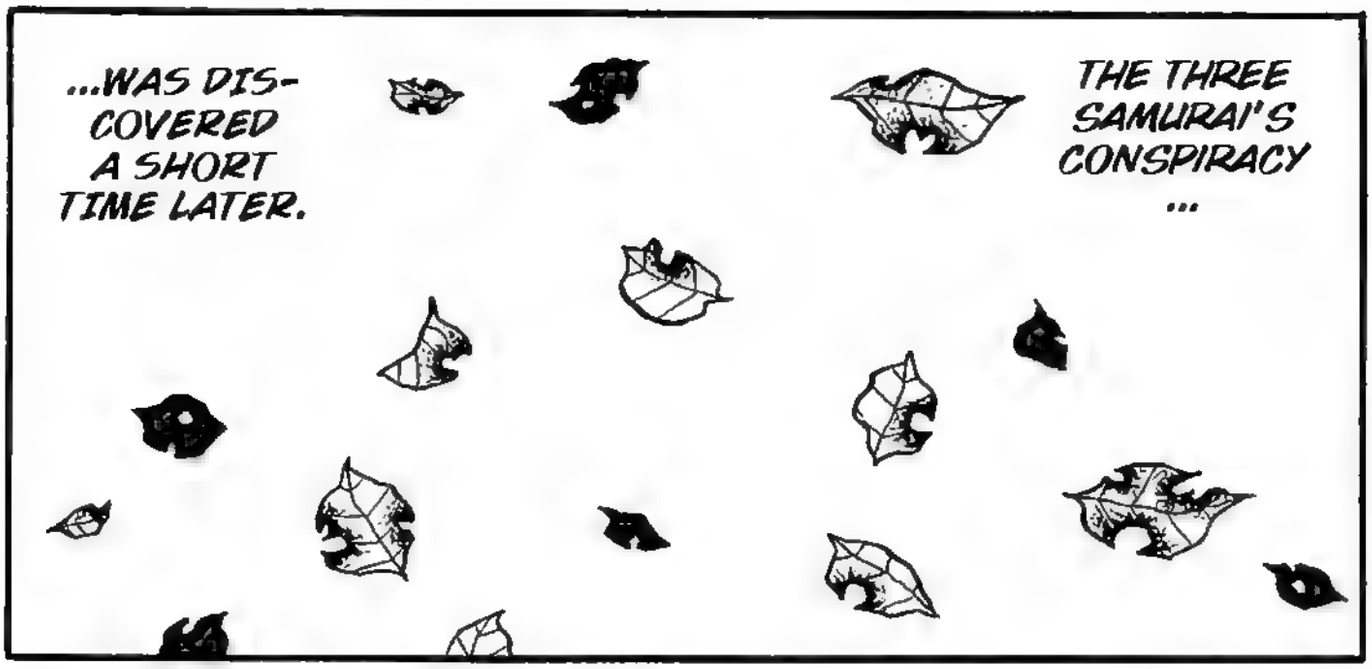

...UNTIL IT REACHED A SPOT WHERE THE WATER WAS DEEPER AND TURBULENT.
THERE IT KEEP SPINNING FOR SEVEN DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS.

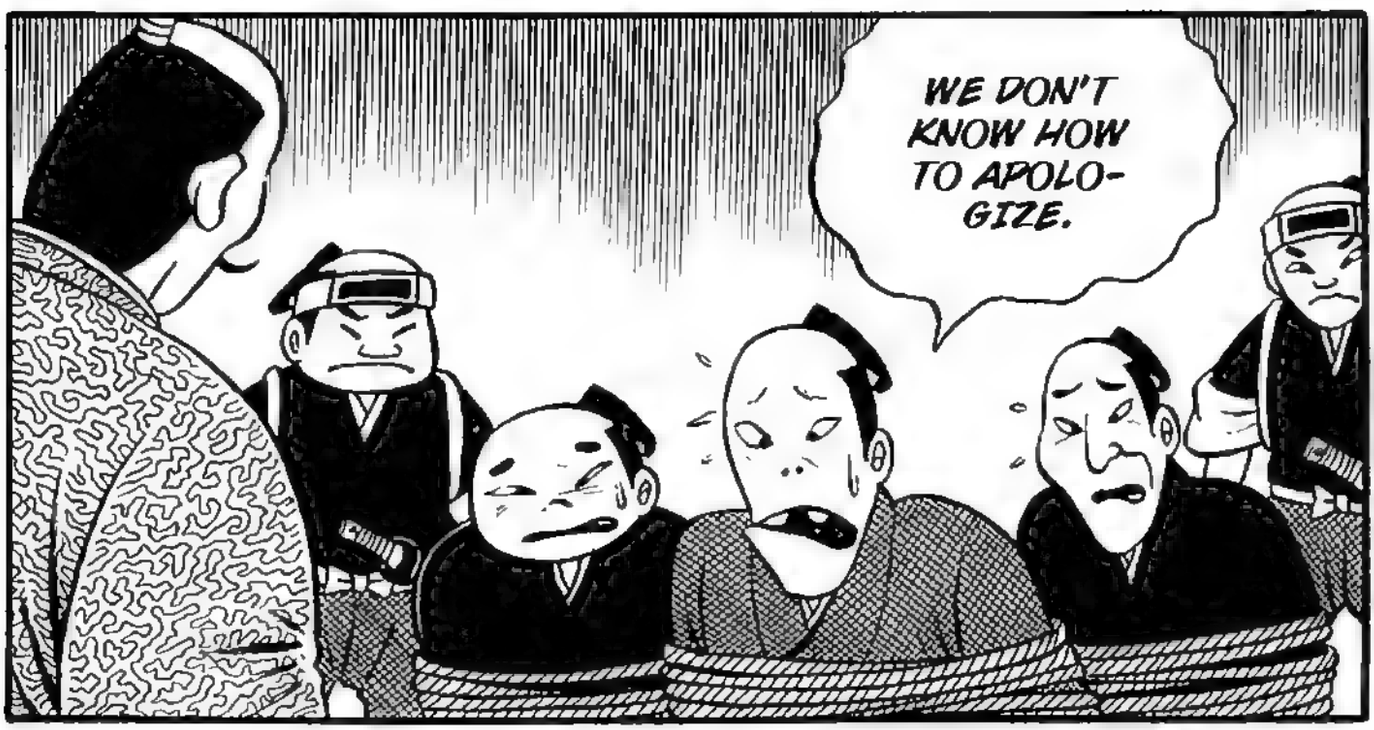
...WHERE IT SAT STARING AT THE CASTLE.

AFTER THAT, IT JUMPED ONTO A ROCK ON THE BANK...

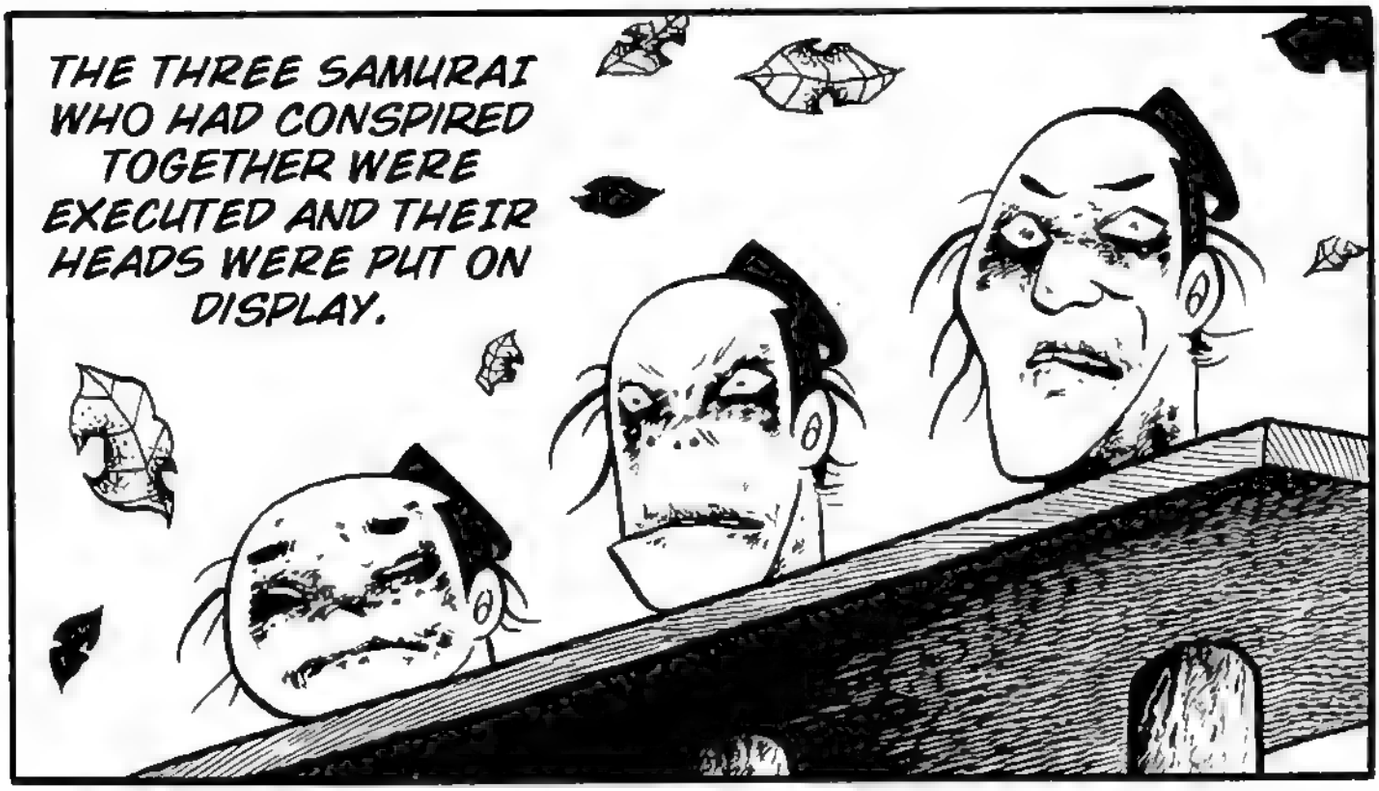
IT LOOKED LIKE A RAGING DEMON.

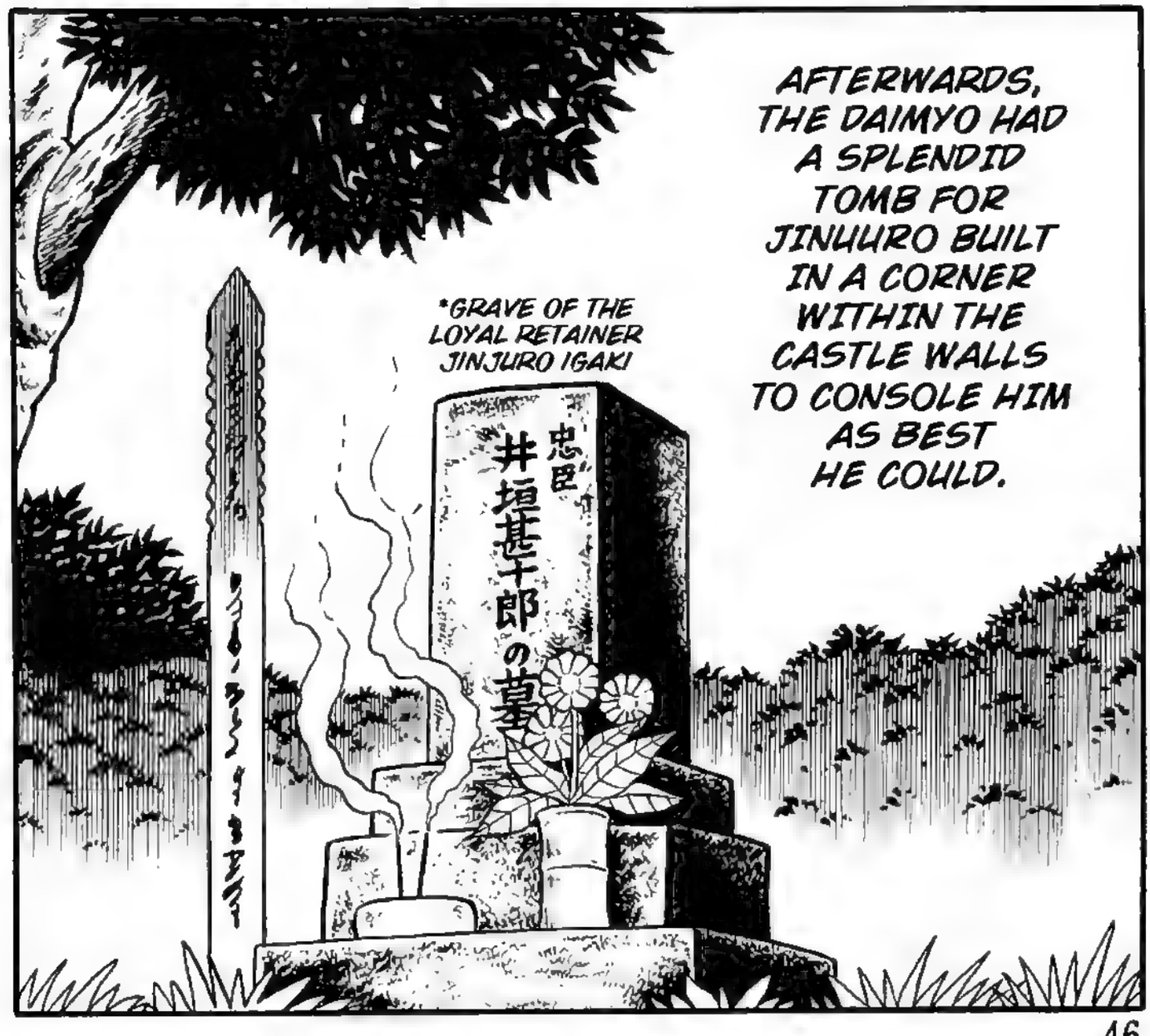

PEOPLE FROM NEARBY VILLAGES SAW IT...
...AND THEY DECIDED TO BURY IT ON THE BANK, PRAYING FOR IT.


...WAS DIS-
COVERED
A SHORT
TIME LATER.
THE THREE
SAMURAI'S
CONSPIRACY
...


WE DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO APOLO-
GIZE.

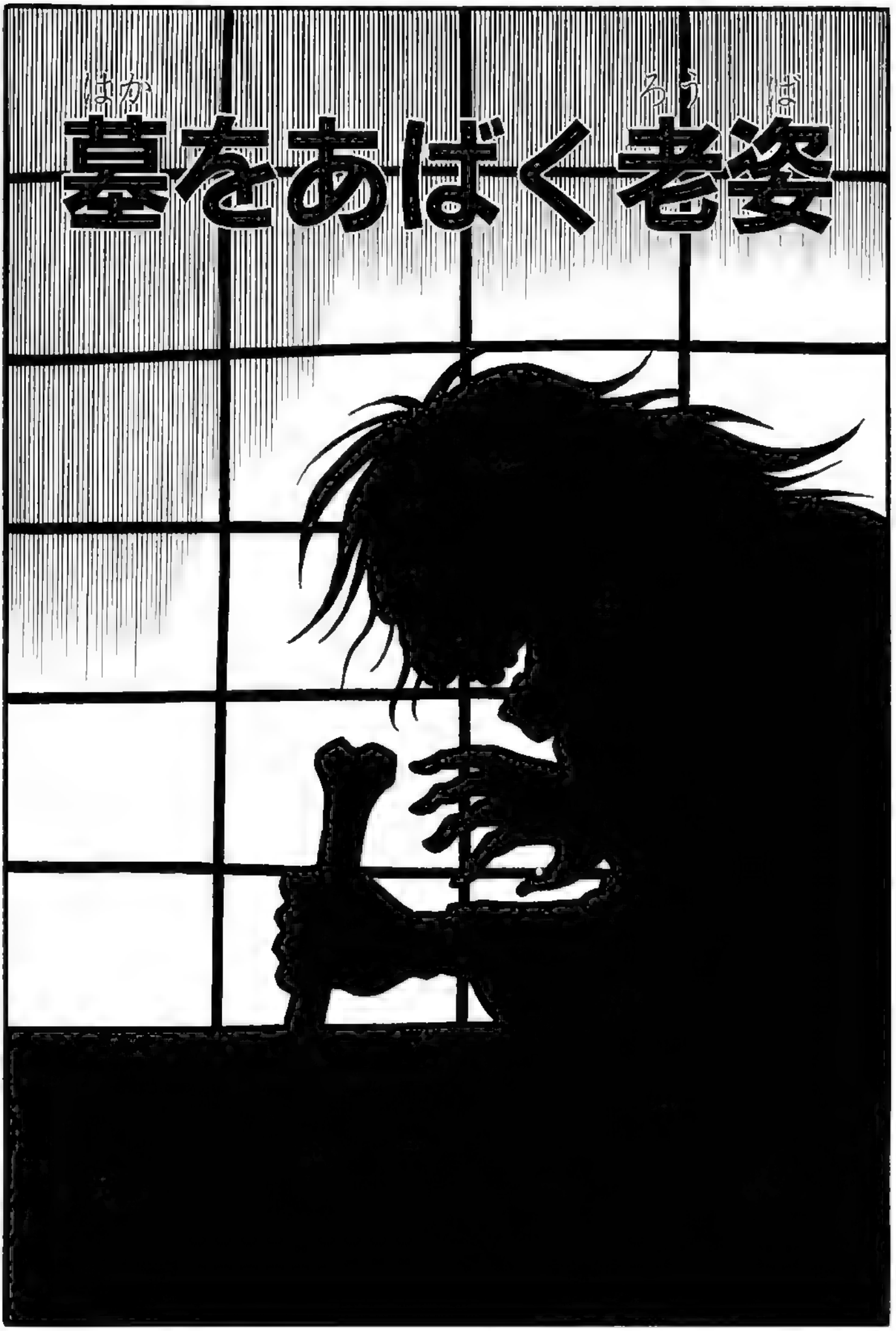
FORGIVE
ME,
JINJURO!
I REALLY
WAS
A FOOL.

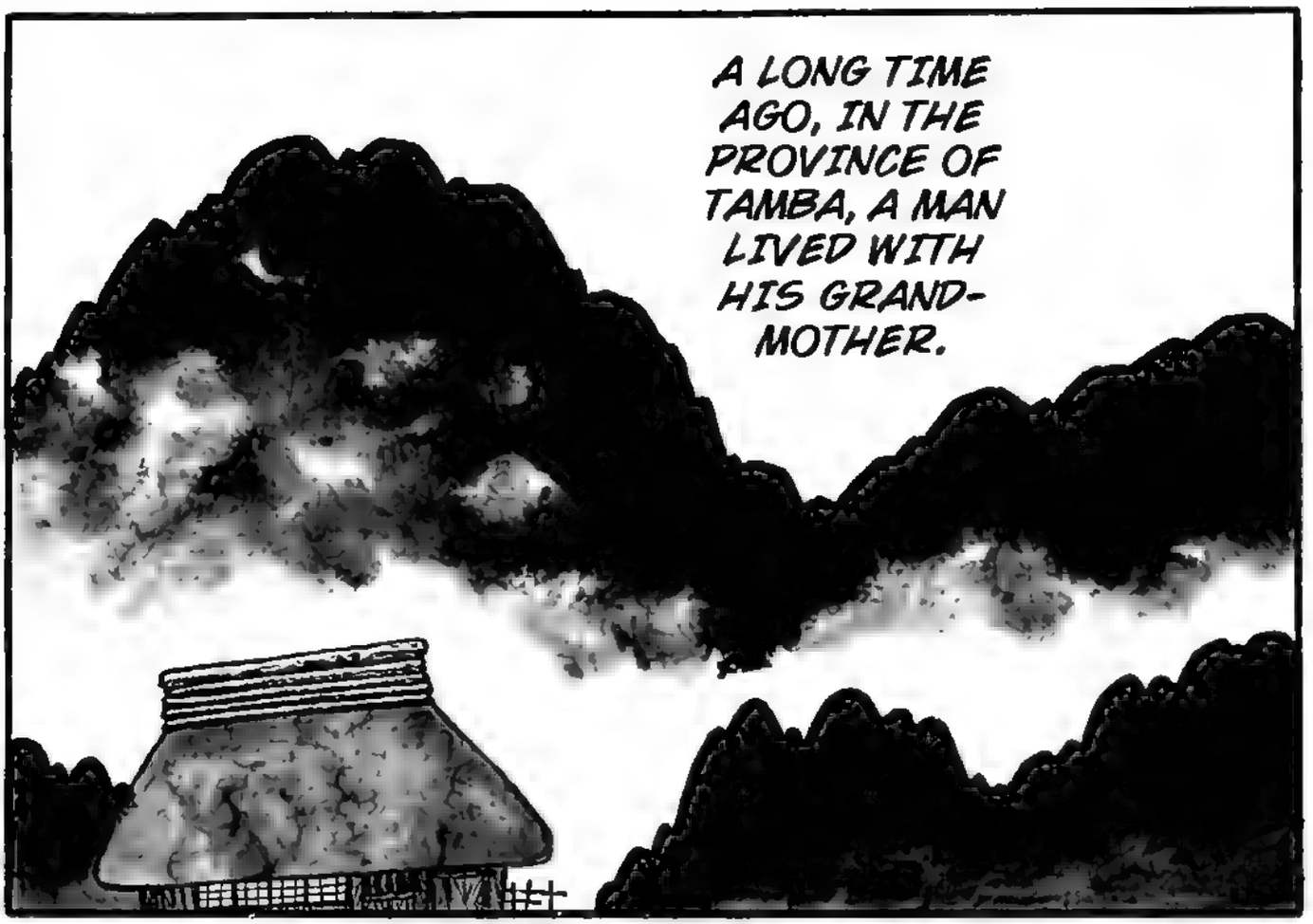

THE THREE SAMURAI WHO HAD CONSPIRED TOGETHER WERE EXECUTED AND THEIR HEADS WERE PUT ON DISPLAY.

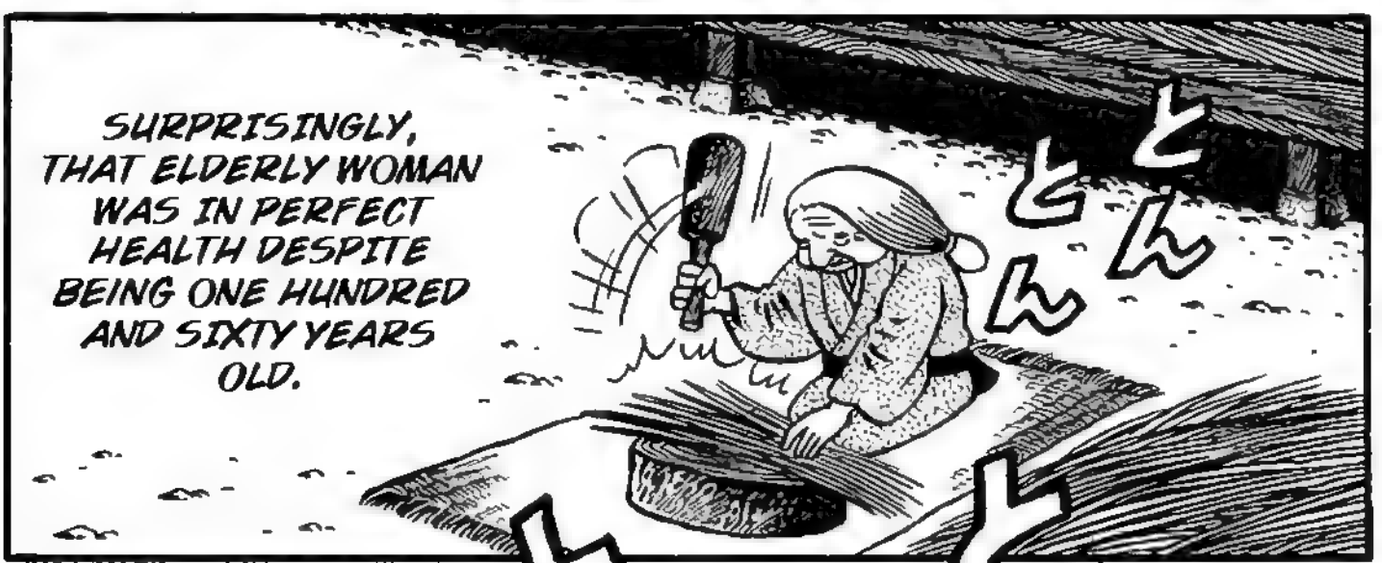

AFTERWARDS, THE DAIMYO HAD A SPLENDID TOMB FOR JINUURO BUILT IN A CORNER WITHIN THE CASTLE WALLS TO CONSOLE HIM AS BEST HE COULD.
*GRAVE OF THE LOYAL RETAINER JINJURO IGAKI
忠臣
井垣甚十郎の墓

THE OLD GRAVE-ROBBING WOMAN

墓をあばく老婆

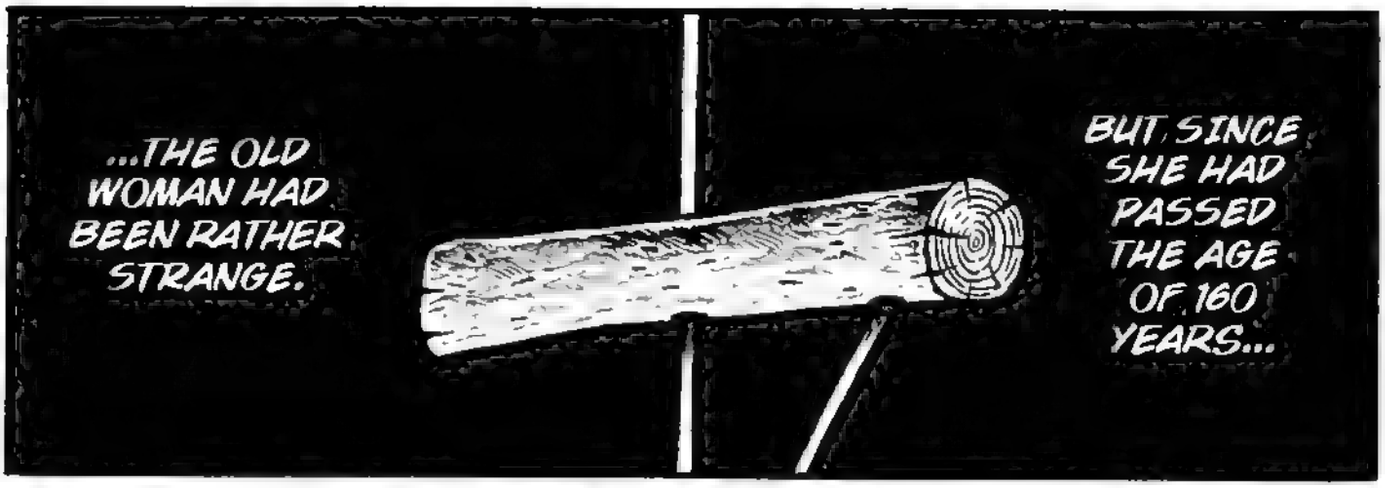


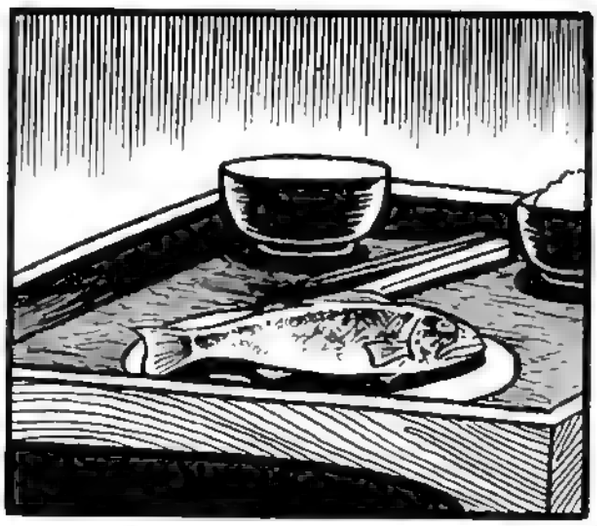

A LONG TIME AGO, IN THE PROVINCE OF TAMBA, A MAN LIVED WITH HIS GRAND-MOTHER.

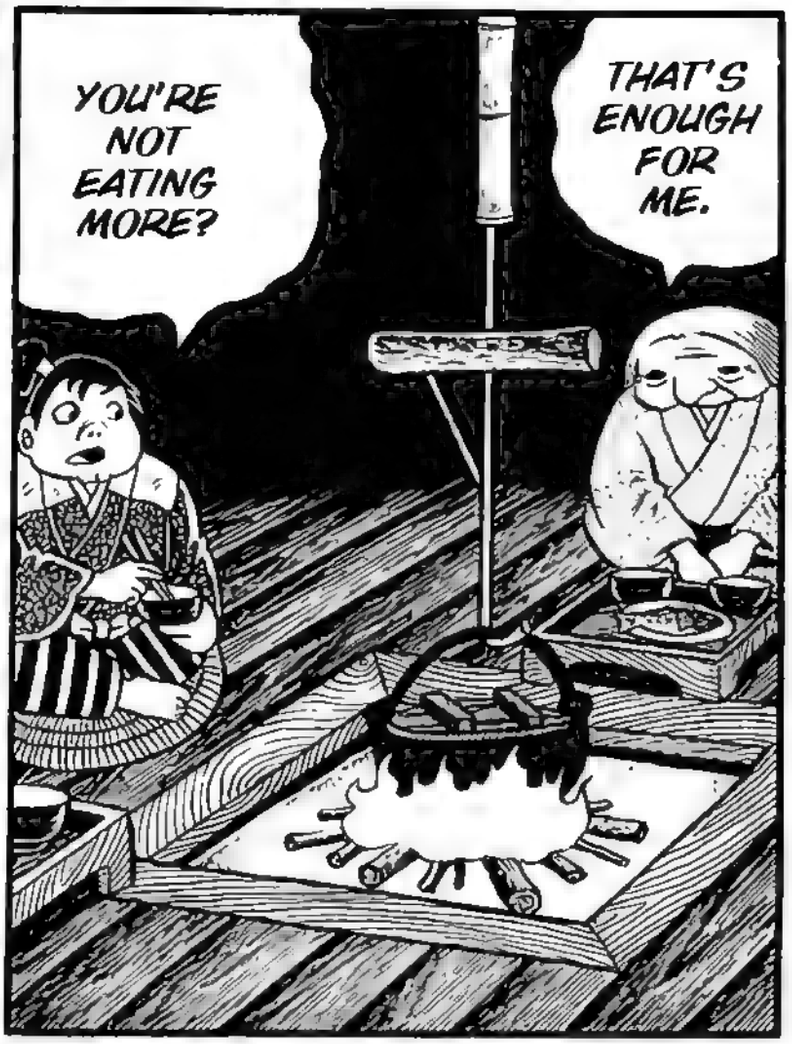

SURPRISINGLY, THAT ELDERLY WOMAN WAS IN PERFECT HEALTH DESPITE BEING ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS OLD.

AS IF SHE WERE A MUCH YOUNGER WOMAN.
SHE STILL WORKED HARD...

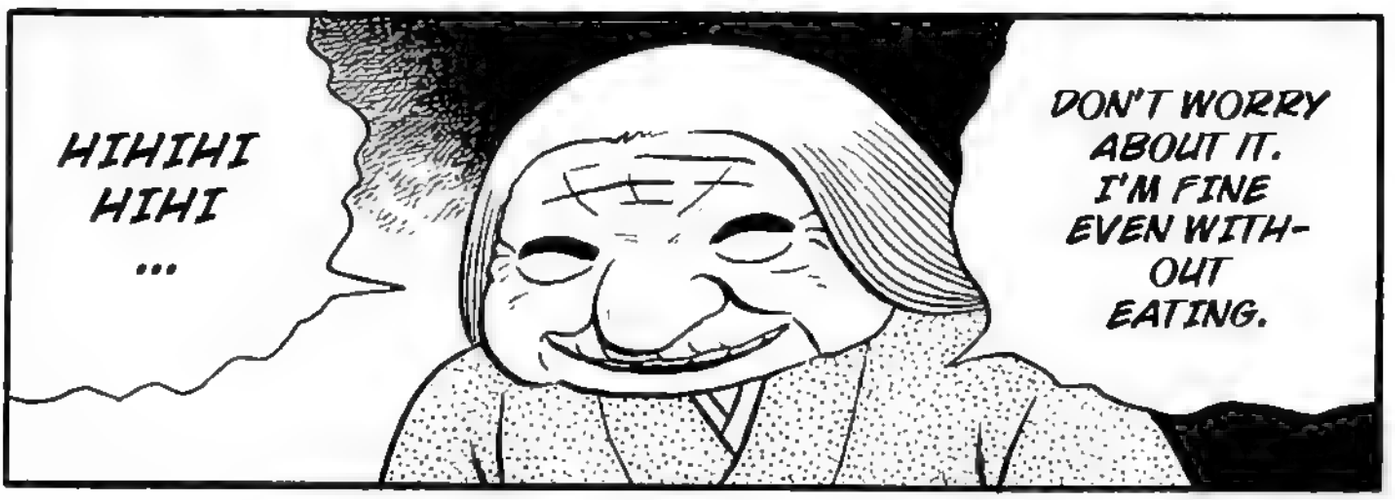
HER HEARING HAD NOT WORSENED AT ALL.
HER VISION REMAINED CLEAR.
GRANDMA, YOUR TEETH ARE BETTER THAN MINE!
ばりばり
HER TEETH WERE IN PERFECT CONDITION. SO MUCH SO THAT SHE STILL COULD EASILY CHEW UP FISH BONES.
LET'S HOPE WE WILL ALSO BE THIS LUCKY ...
I DON'T GET HOW SHE CAN STILL BE SO SPRY.


...THE OLD WOMAN HAD BEEN RATHER STRANGE.
BUT, SINCE SHE HAD PASSED THE AGE OF 160 YEARS...



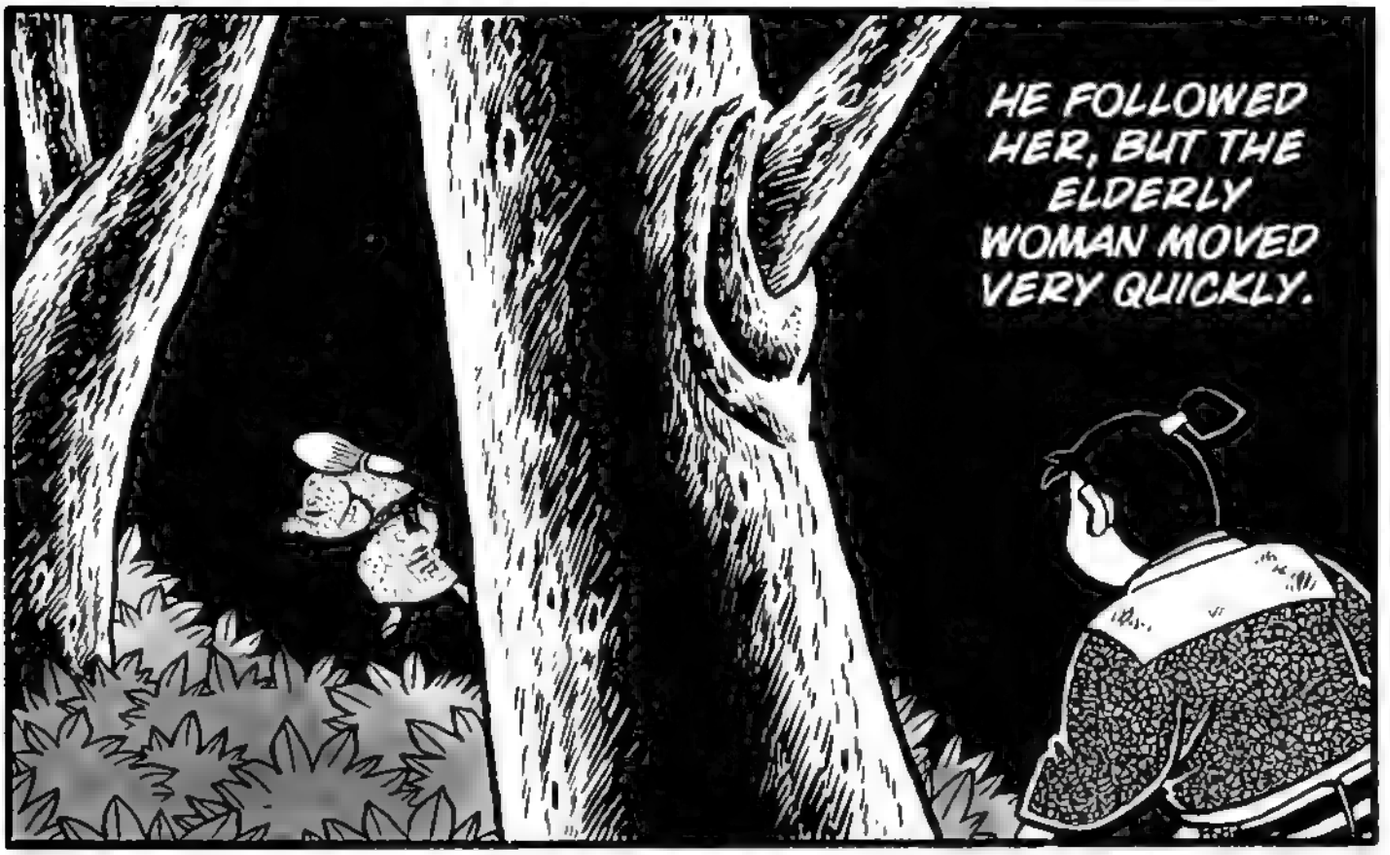

YOU'RE NOT EATING MORE?
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN TRY IT.

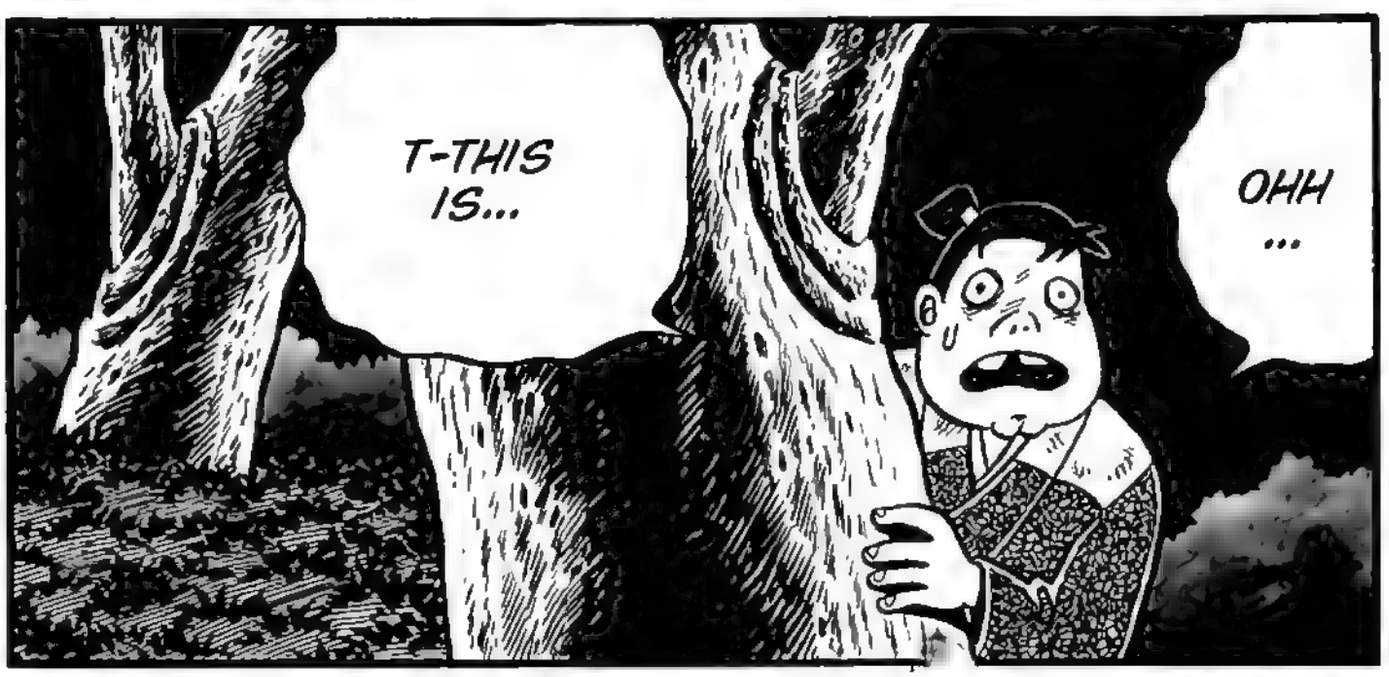

HIHIHI HIHI ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M FINE EVEN WITH-OUT EATING.

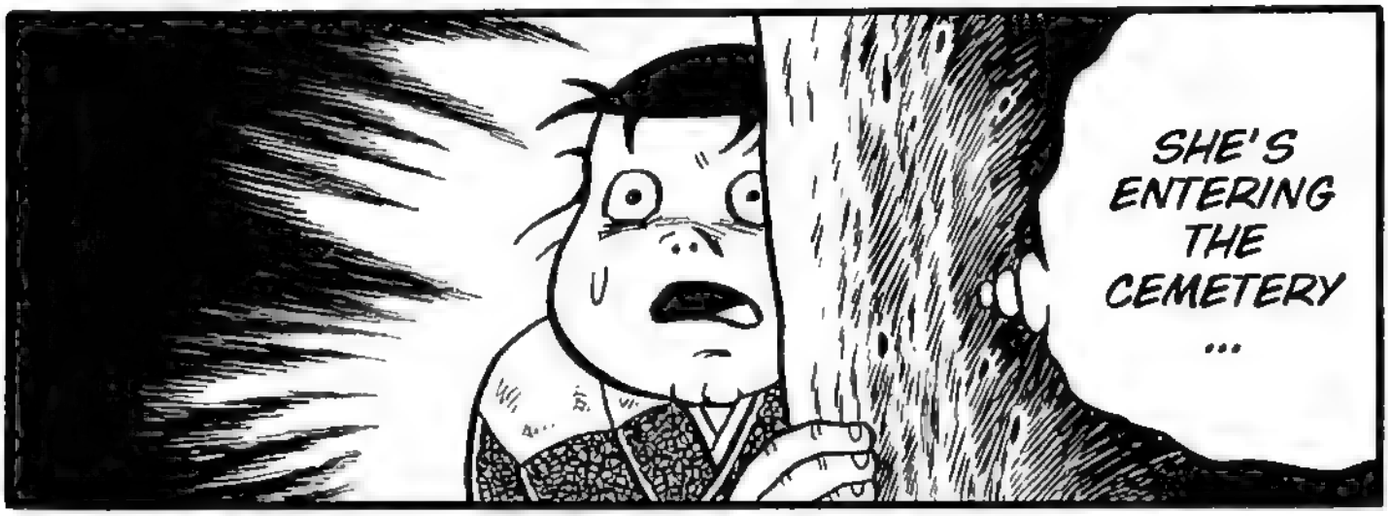
ON THE OTHER HAND, HER BONES SEEMED TO GROW THICKER.
...SHE BECAME MORE AND MORE GAUNT.
EVER SINCE SHE HAD STOPPED EATING...
.....
WHAT'S MORE, THE WHITES OF HER EYES STARTED TO GLOW WITH A BLUISH-GREEN LIGHT.
SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING WITH GRANDMA THESE DAYS ...
UMM ...

THEN, ONE NIGHT ...
ごそっ
WHERE IS SHE GOING AT THIS HOUR?
……


HE FOLLOWED HER, BUT THE ELDERLY WOMAN MOVED VERY QUICKLY.

IT WAS AS IF SHE WERE FLYING THROUGH THE DARKNESS.

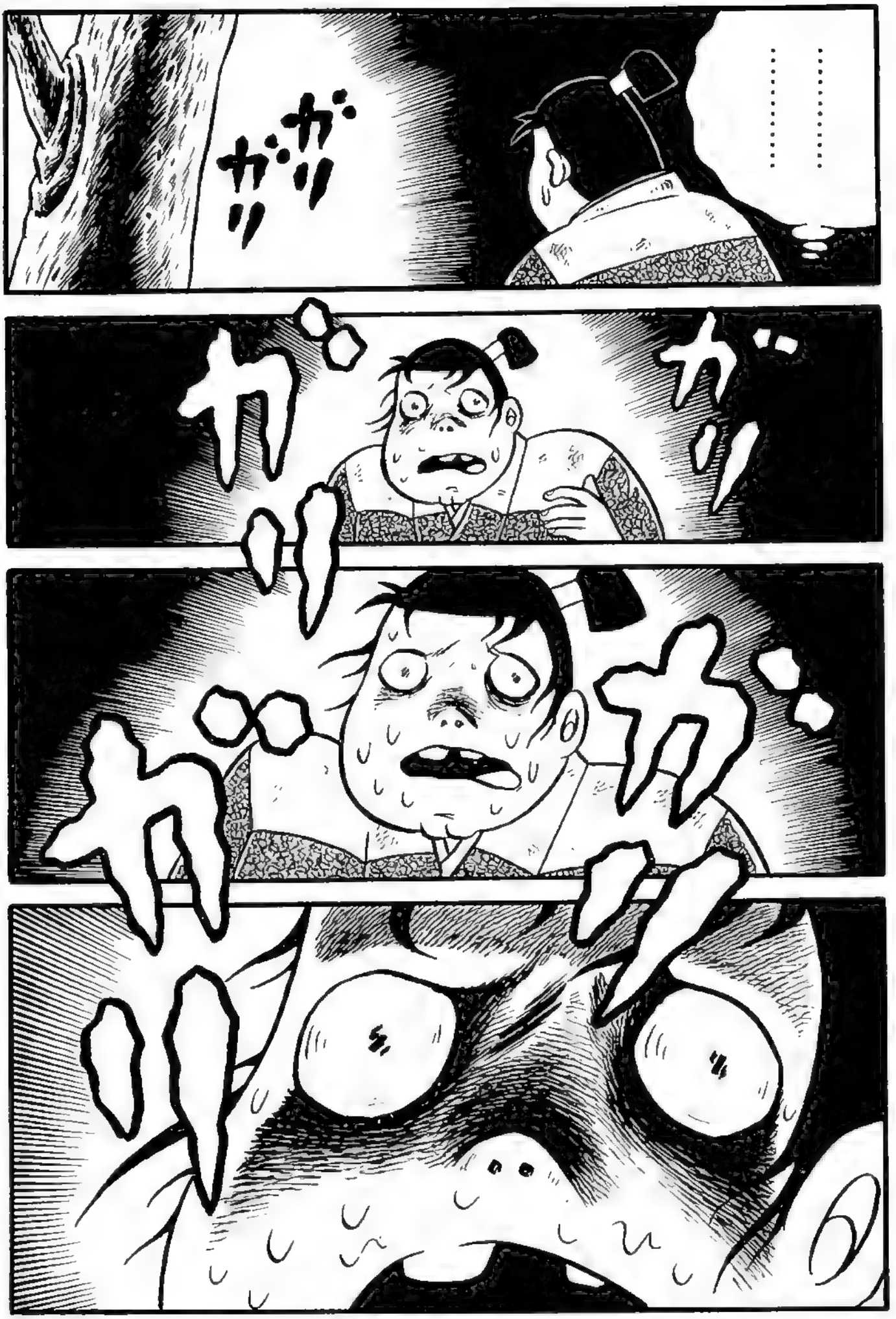

T-THIS IS...
OHH ...


SHE'S ENTERING THE CEMETERY ...

.....

I LOST HER!

WHERE DID SHE GO?
.....
.....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EEK
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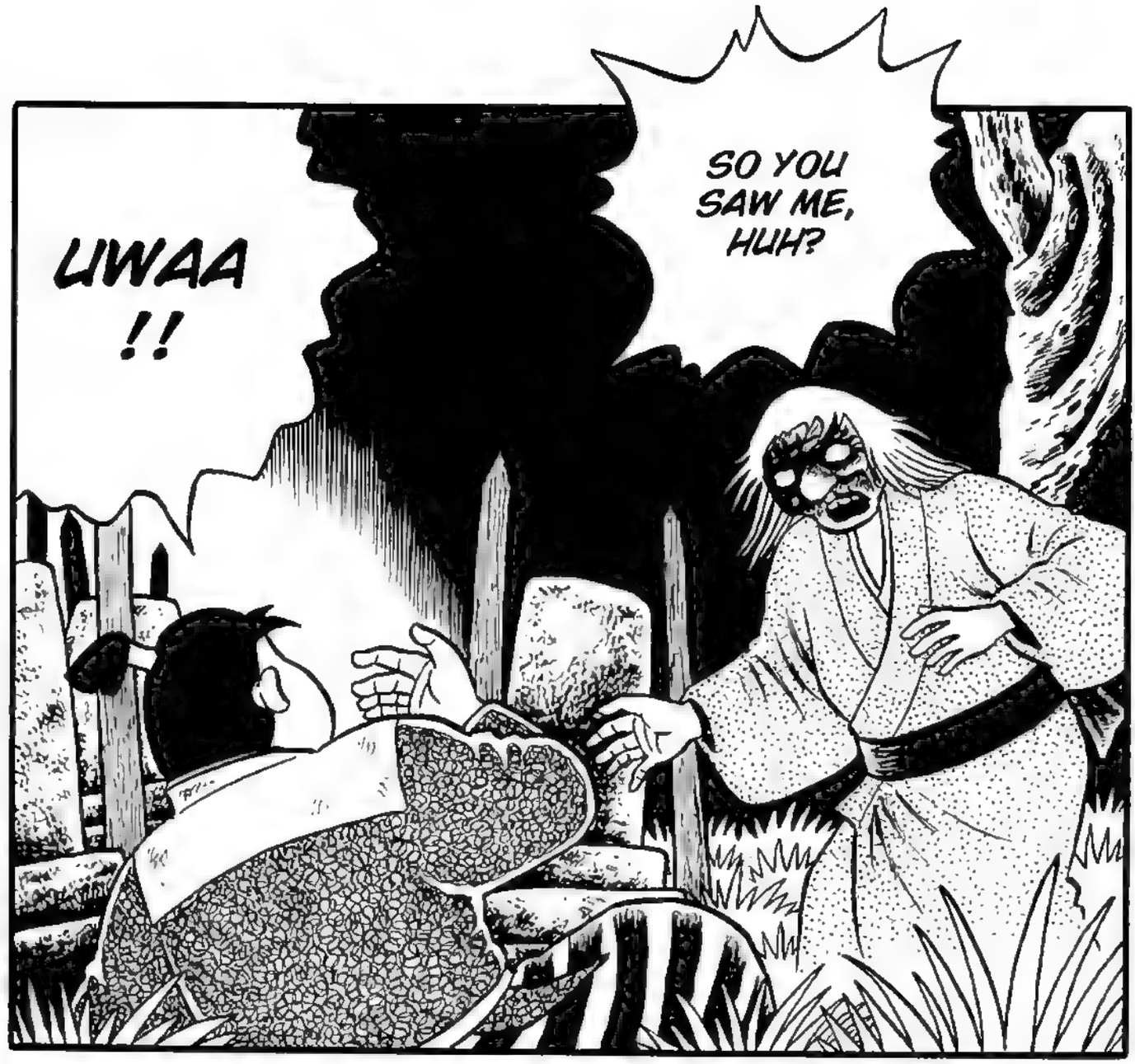
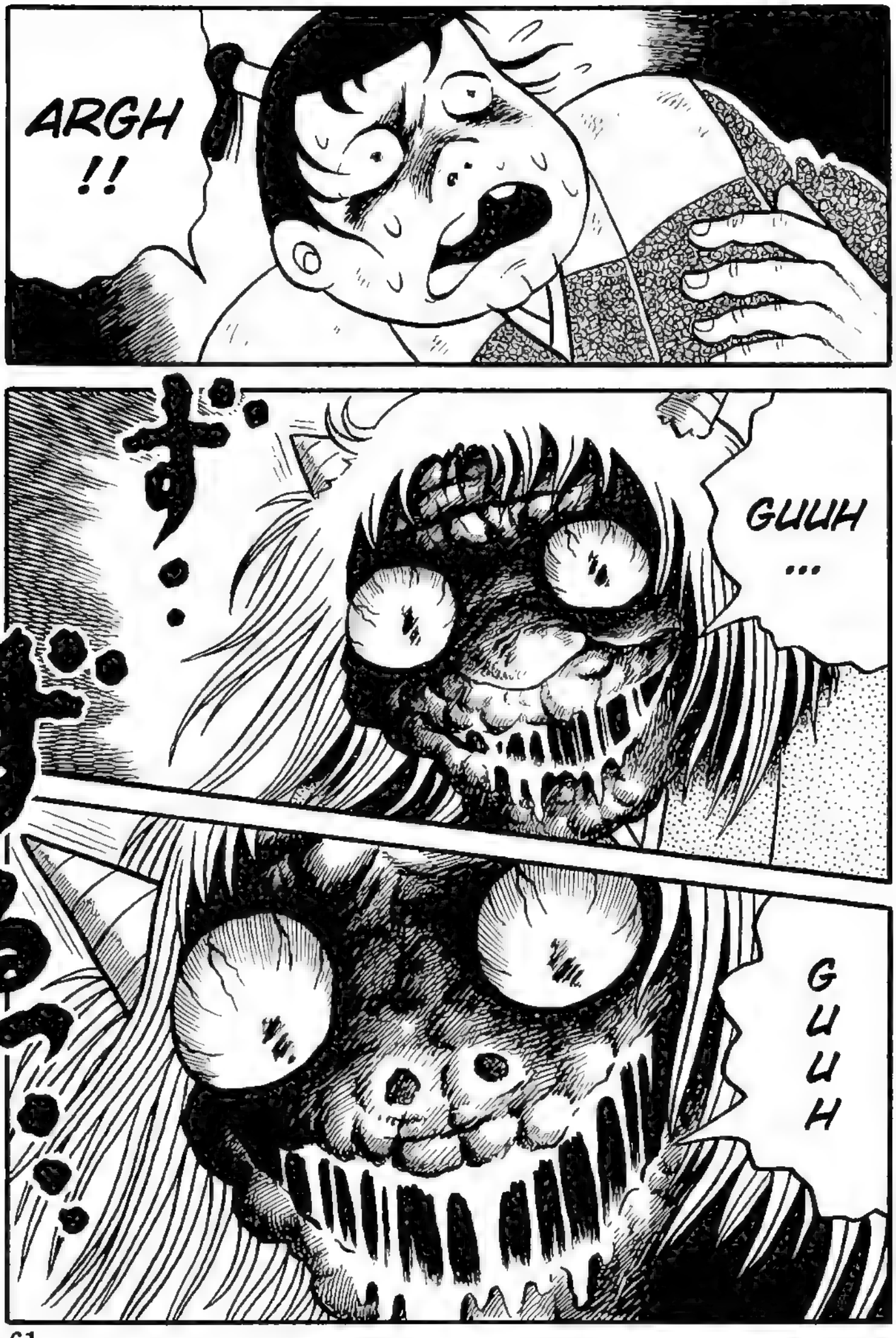
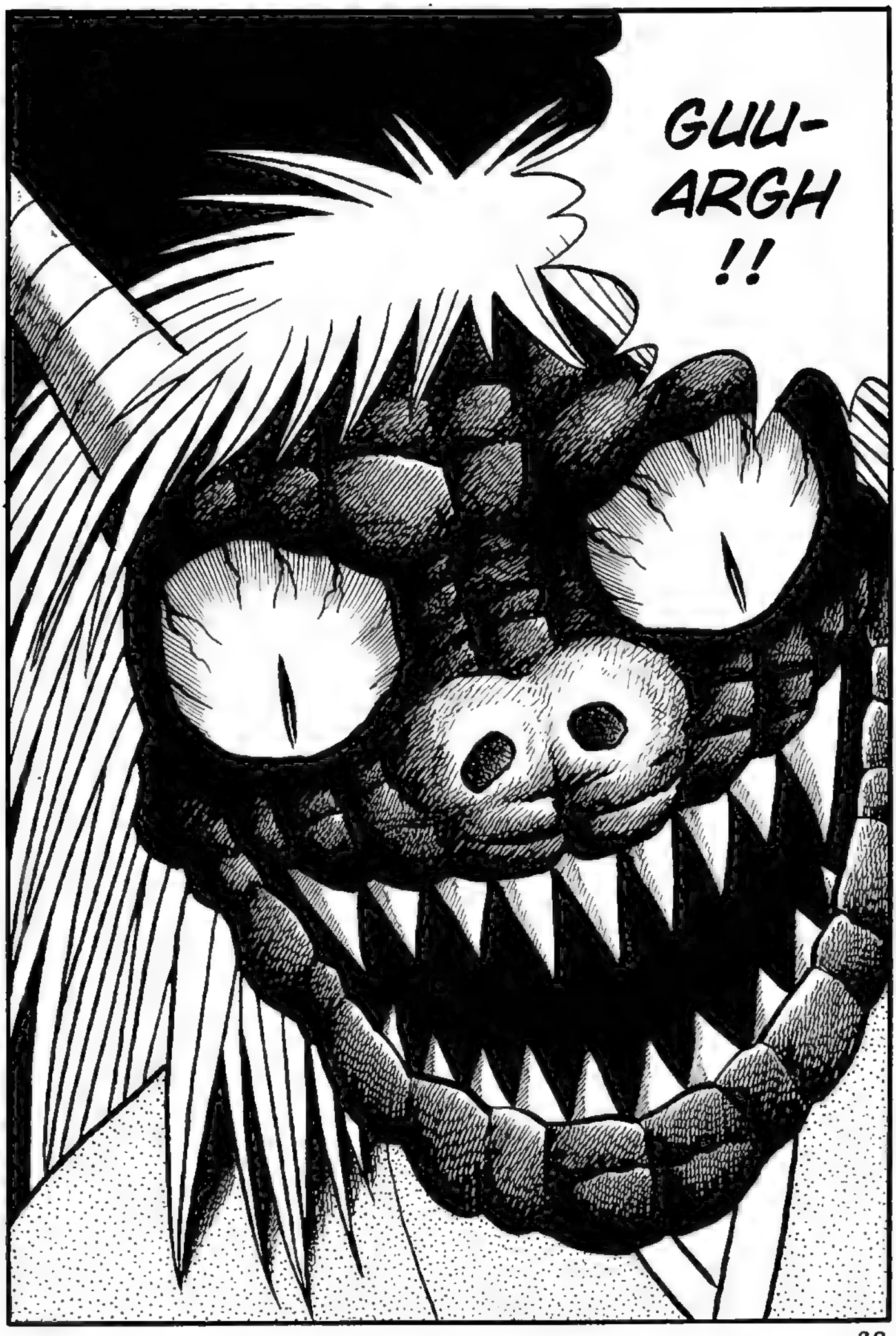

SO YOU SAW ME, HUH?
UWAA !!

HI HI HI !!


ARGH !!
ず…
GUUH …
ずるっ…
GUUH


GUU-
ARGH
!!

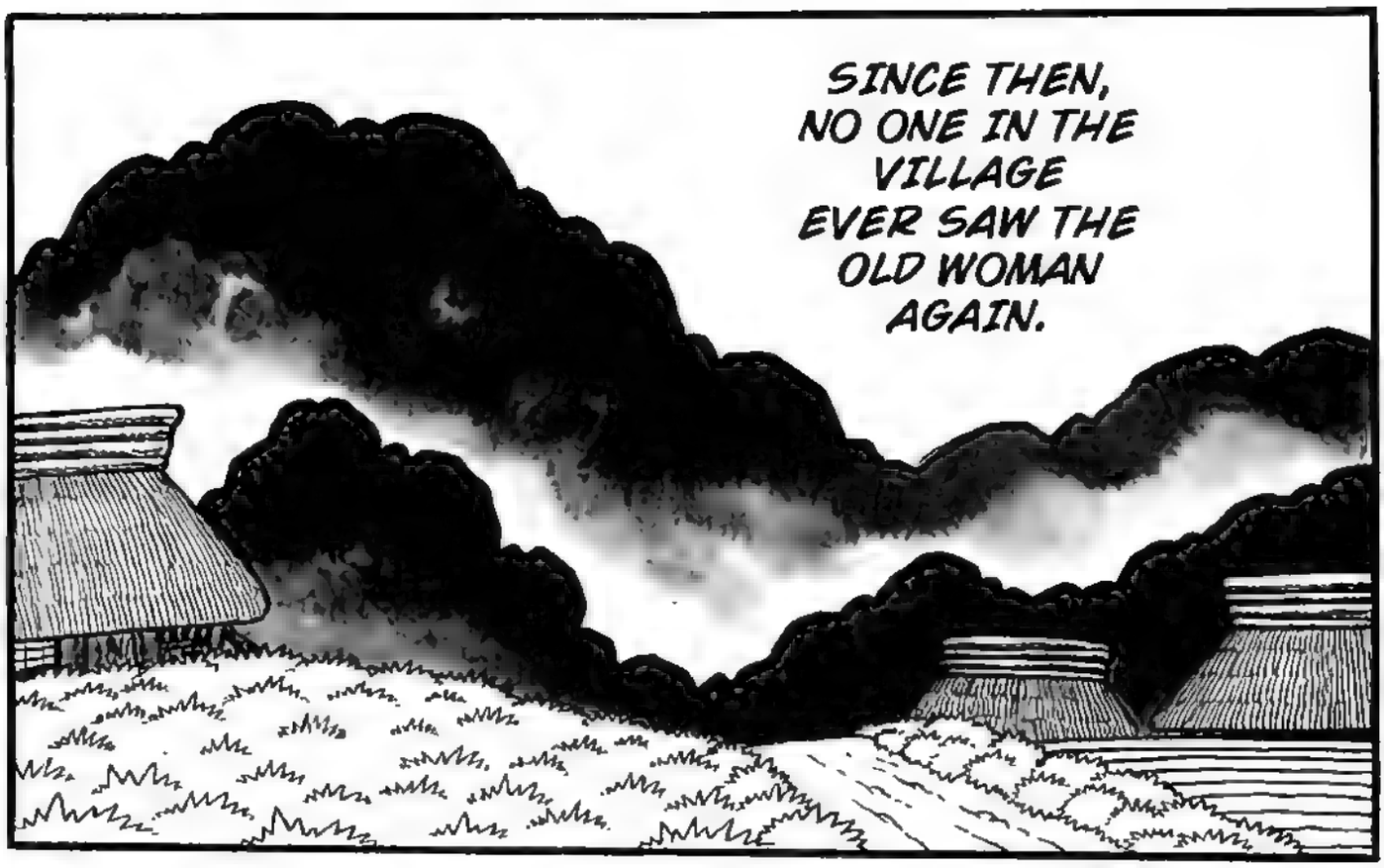
WAAH!!
SINCE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO LIVE!
HELP!!

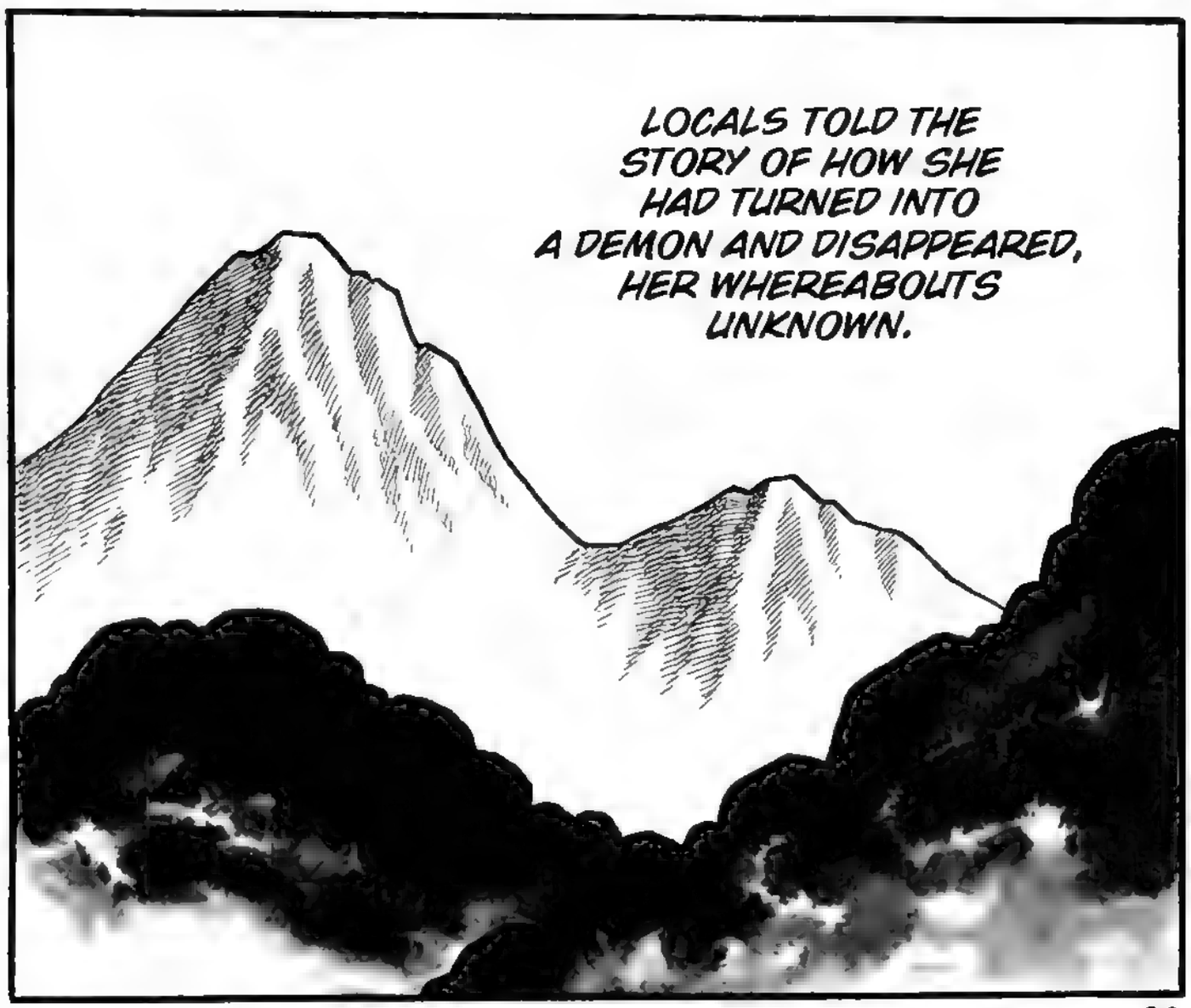
GOOD-BYE.
I WILL NEVER RETURN HOME!

WAAAH !!

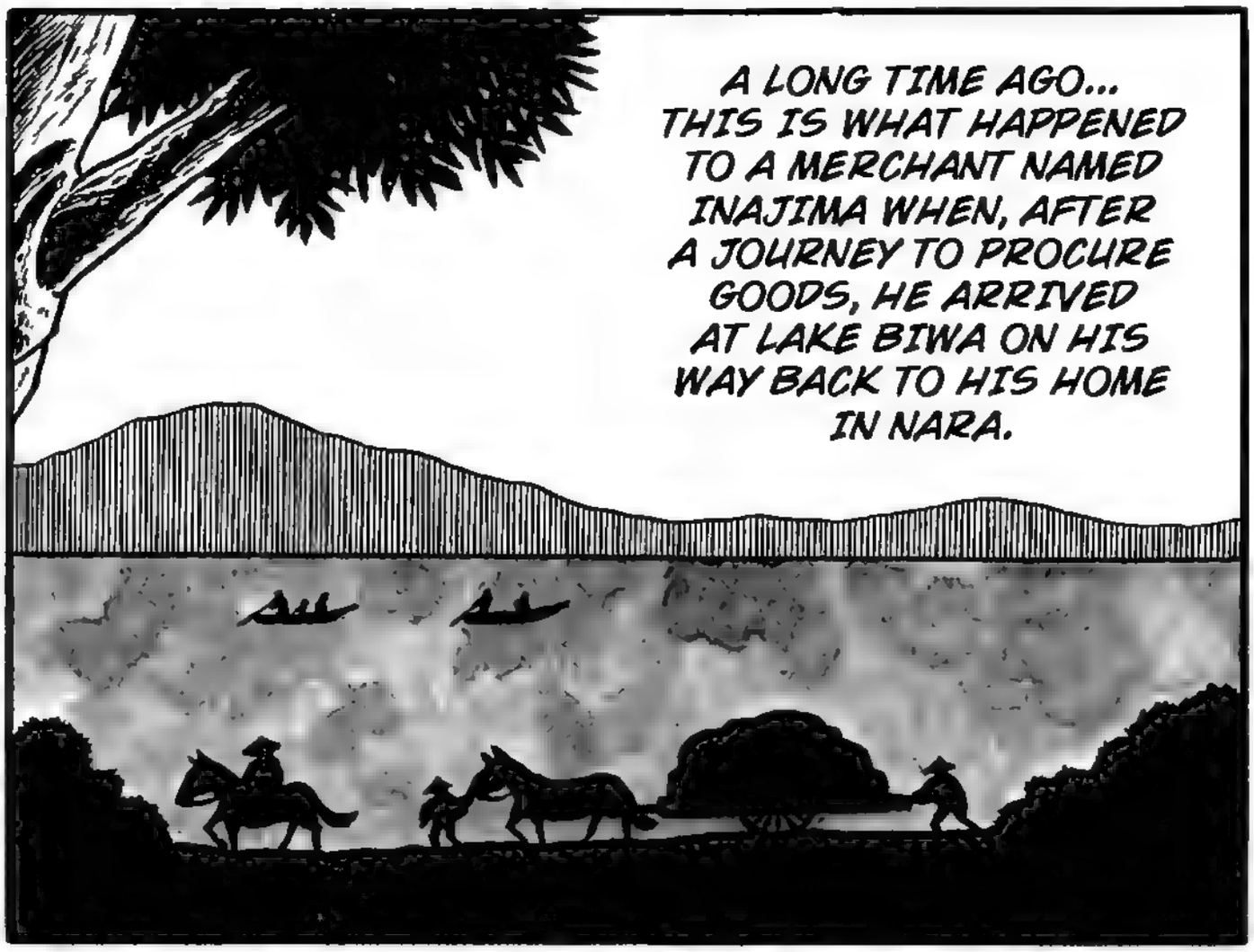
I SHALL SPARE YOU.
BUT SINCE YOU ARE PART OF OF MY LINEAGE ...

HAVING SAID THAT, THE OLD WOMAN QUICKLY DIS-APPEARED INTO THE DARKNESS.


SINCE THEN, NO ONE IN THE VILLAGE EVER SAW THE OLD WOMAN AGAIN.


LOCALS TOLD THE STORY OF HOW SHE HAD TURNED INTO A DEMON AND DISAPPEARED, HER WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.

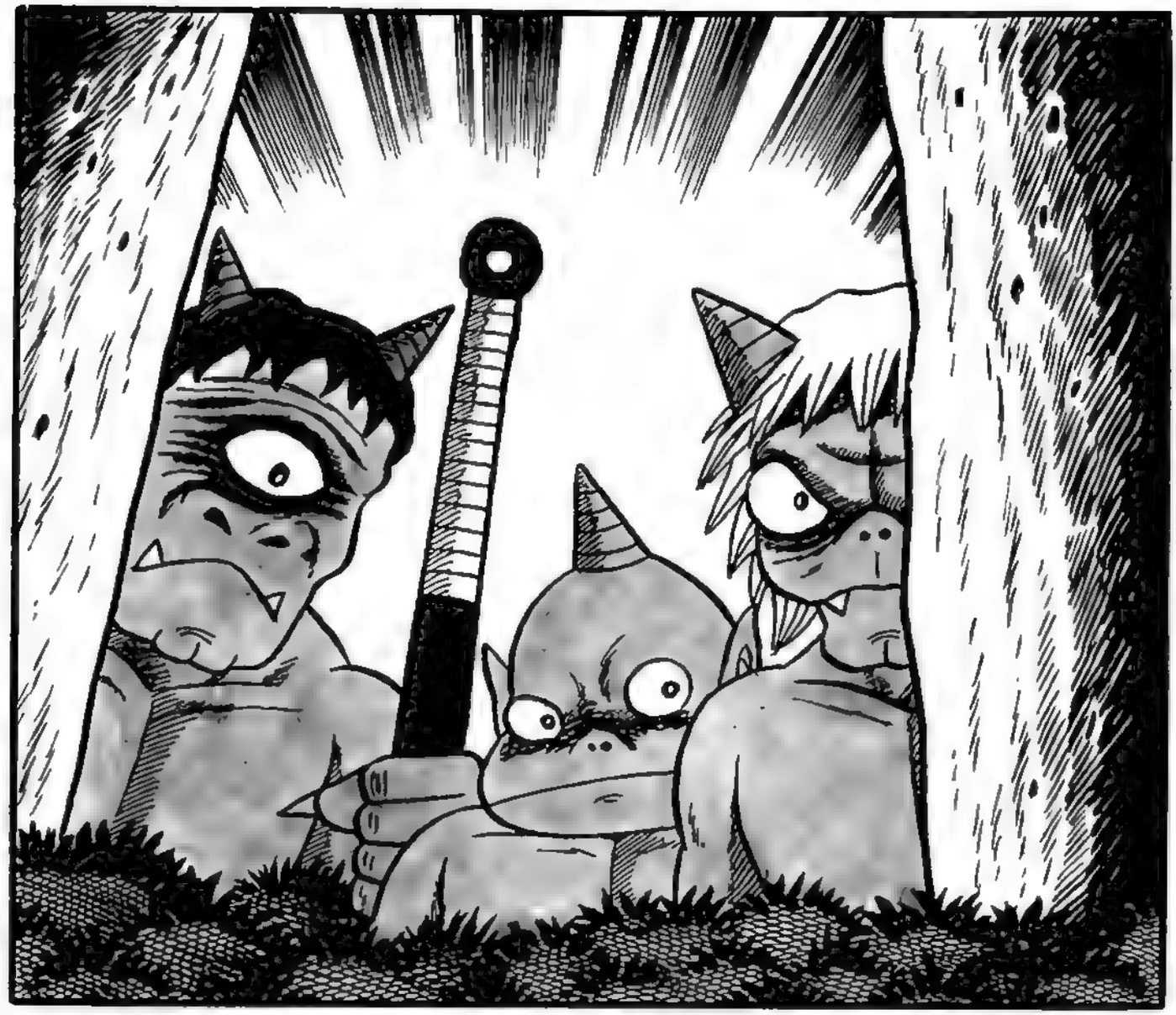
MESSENGERS FROM HELL


A LONG TIME AGO... THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO A MERCHANT NAMED INAJIMA WHEN, AFTER A JOURNEY TO PROCURE GOODS, HE ARRIVED AT LAKE BIWA ON HIS WAY BACK TO HIS HOME IN NARA.

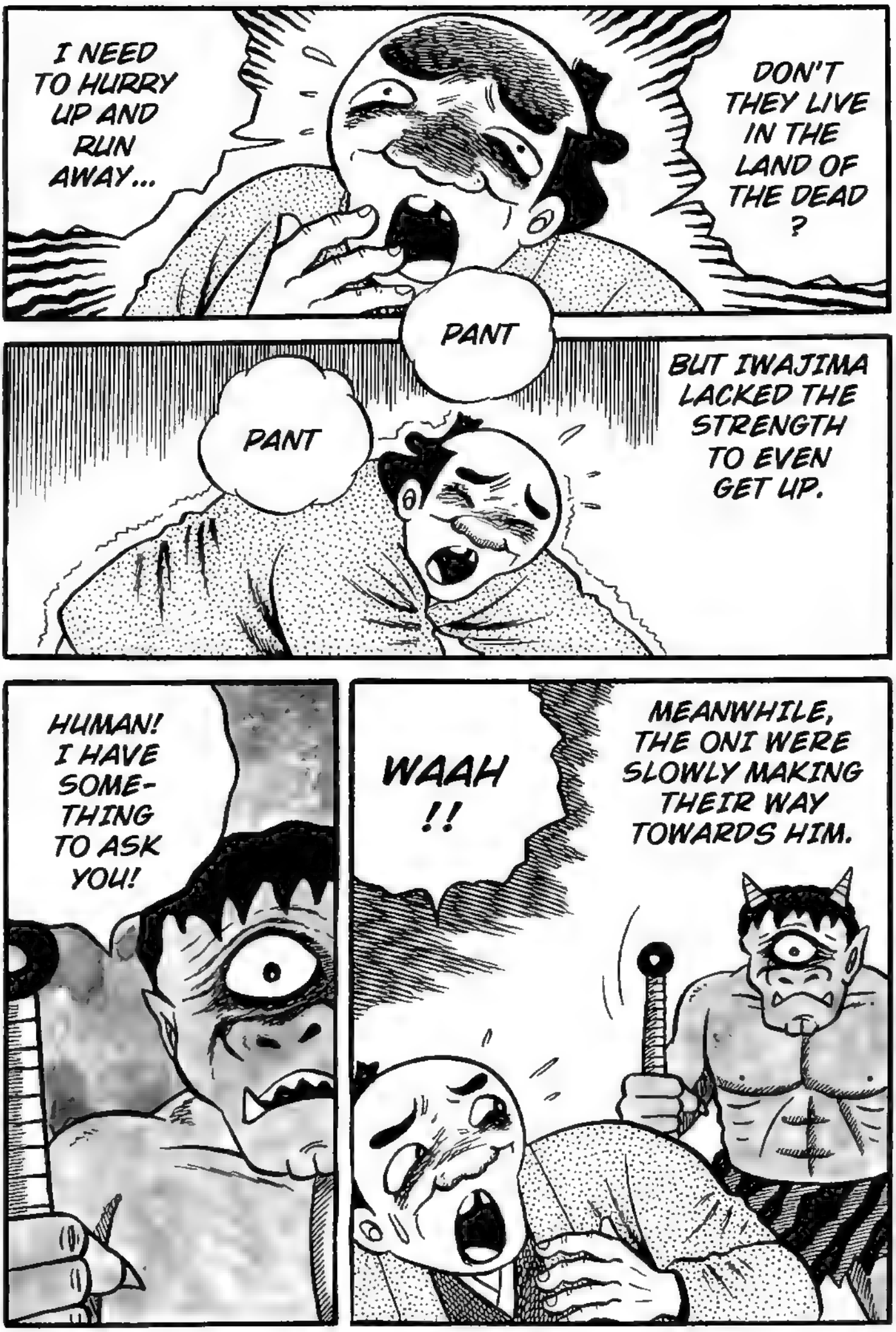
URGH ...

UHHH... I DON'T FEEL WELL...
MISTER, WHAT'S WRONG ?

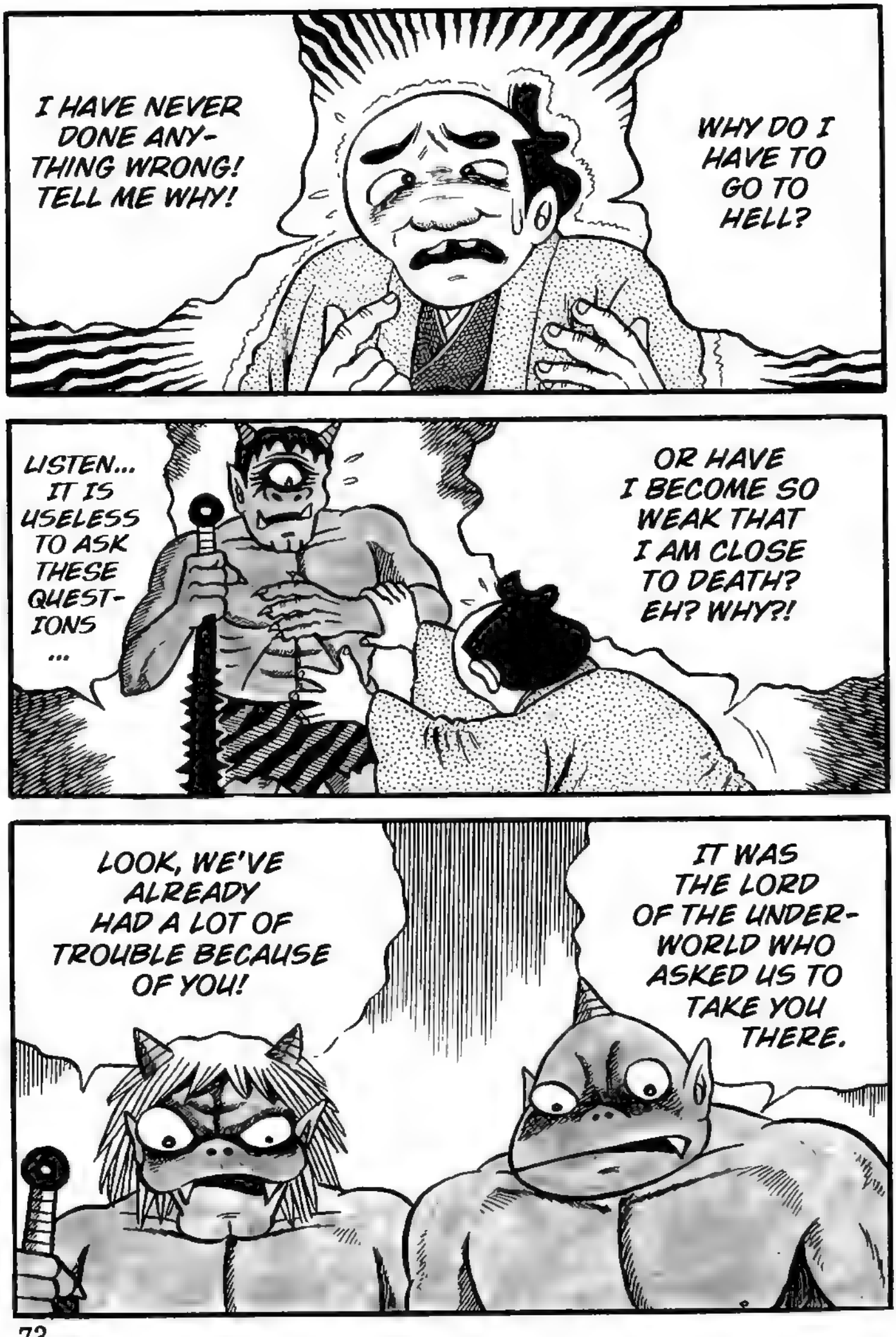
UHHH ...
YOU GO ON, I WILL REST FOR A MOMENT.
AS YOU WISH.
!?



WAH! THOSE ARE ONI!


I NEED TO HURRY UP AND RUN AWAY...
DON'T THEY LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD ?
PANT
PANT
BUT IWAJIMA LACKED THE STRENGTH TO EVEN GET UP.
HUMAN! I HAVE SOME-THING TO ASK YOU!
WAAH !!
MEANWHILE, THE ONI WERE SLOWLY MAKING THEIR WAY TOWARDS HIM.

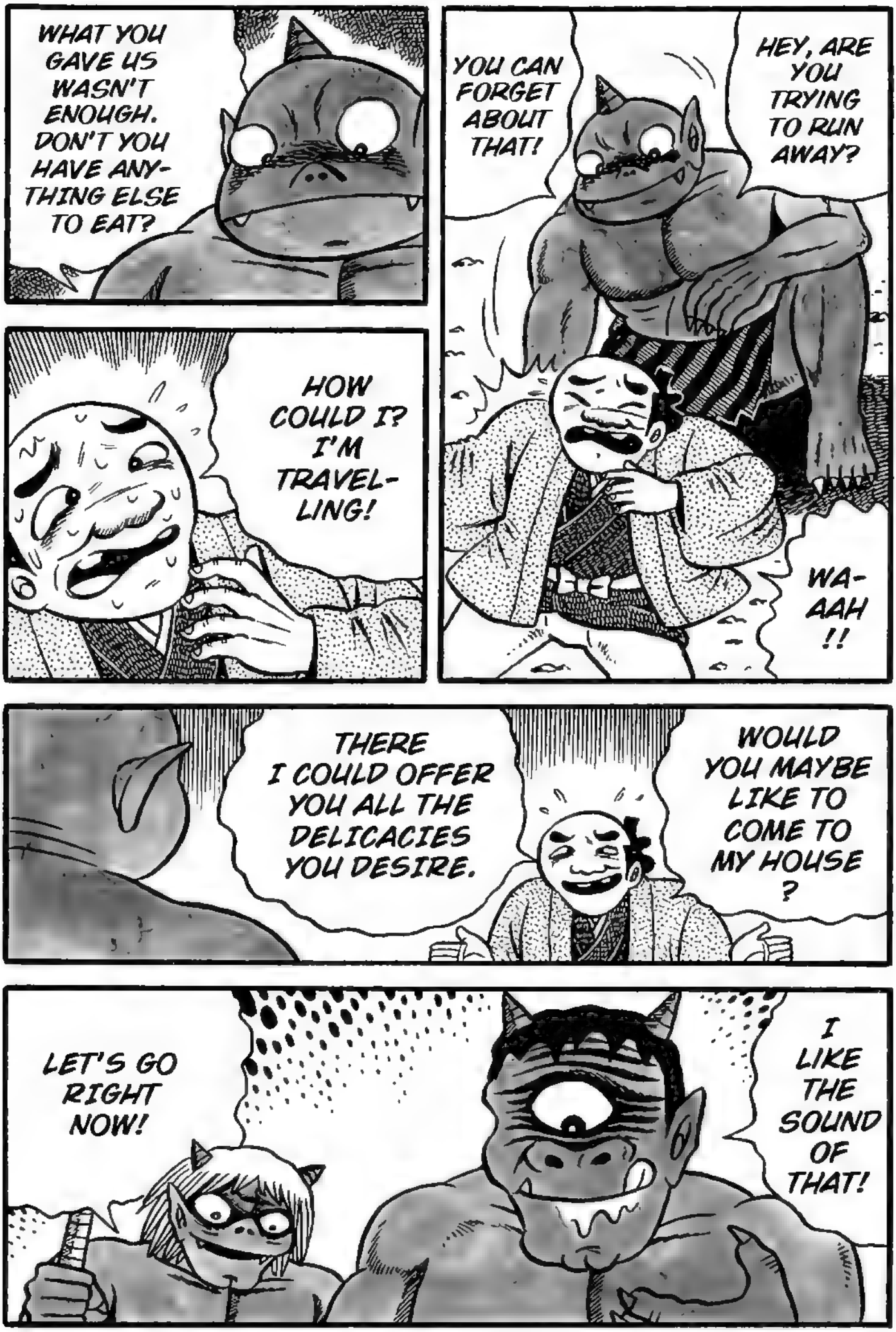
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW A MAN CALLED IWAJIMA?
WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE.
WELL... THAT WOULD BE ME.
IWA-JIMA ?
WE ARE SERVANTS OF THE LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD AND HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU TO HIM.
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
HUH? BUT WHY ?!

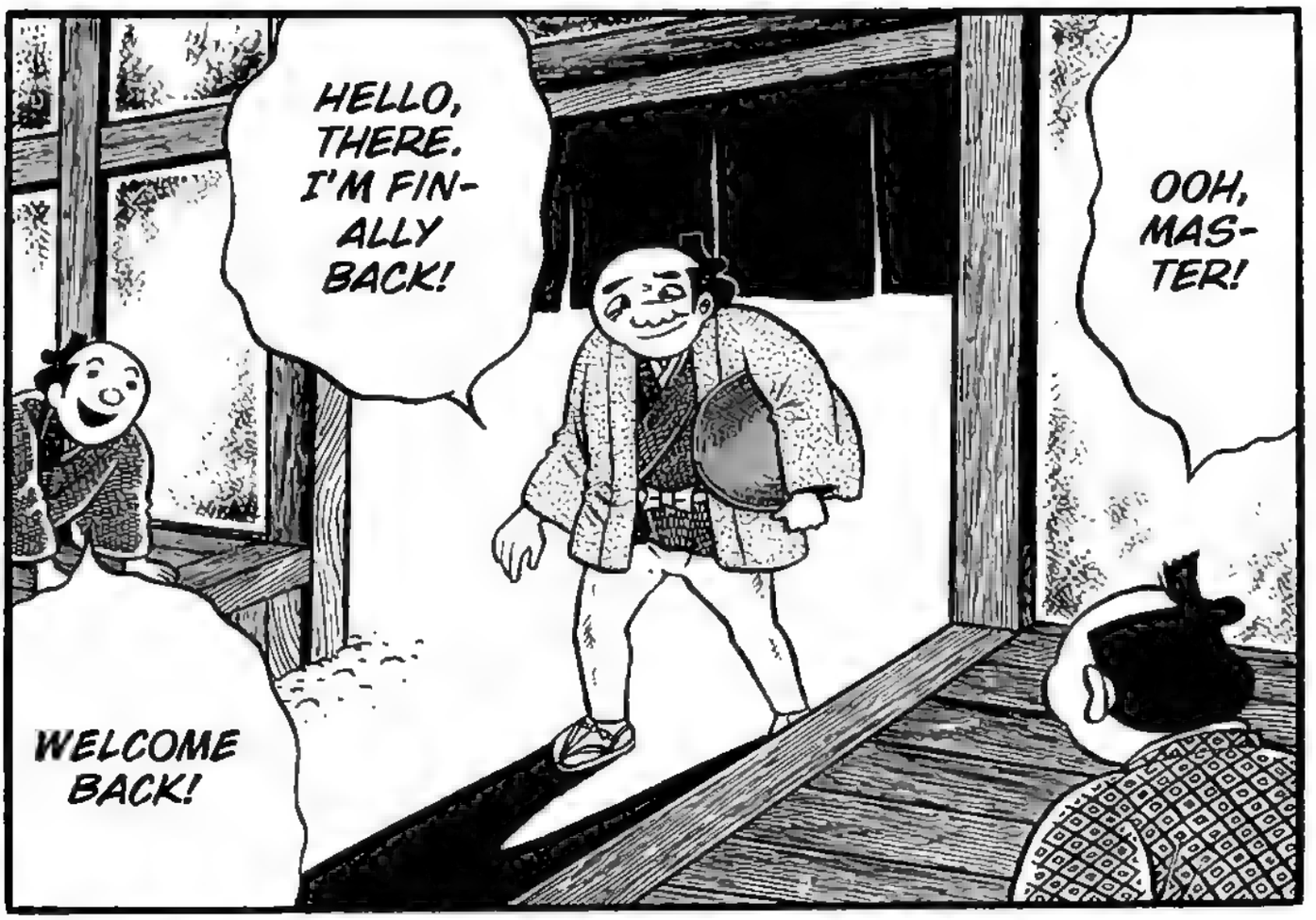

I HAVE NEVER DONE ANY-THING WRONG! TELL ME WHY!
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO HELL?
LISTEN... IT IS USELESS TO ASK THESE QUEST-IONS ...
OR HAVE I BECOME SO WEAK THAT I AM CLOSE TO DEATH? EH? WHY?!
LOOK, WE'VE ALREADY HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE BECAUSE OF YOU!
IT WAS THE LORD OF THE UNDER-WORLD WHO ASKED US TO TAKE YOU THERE.

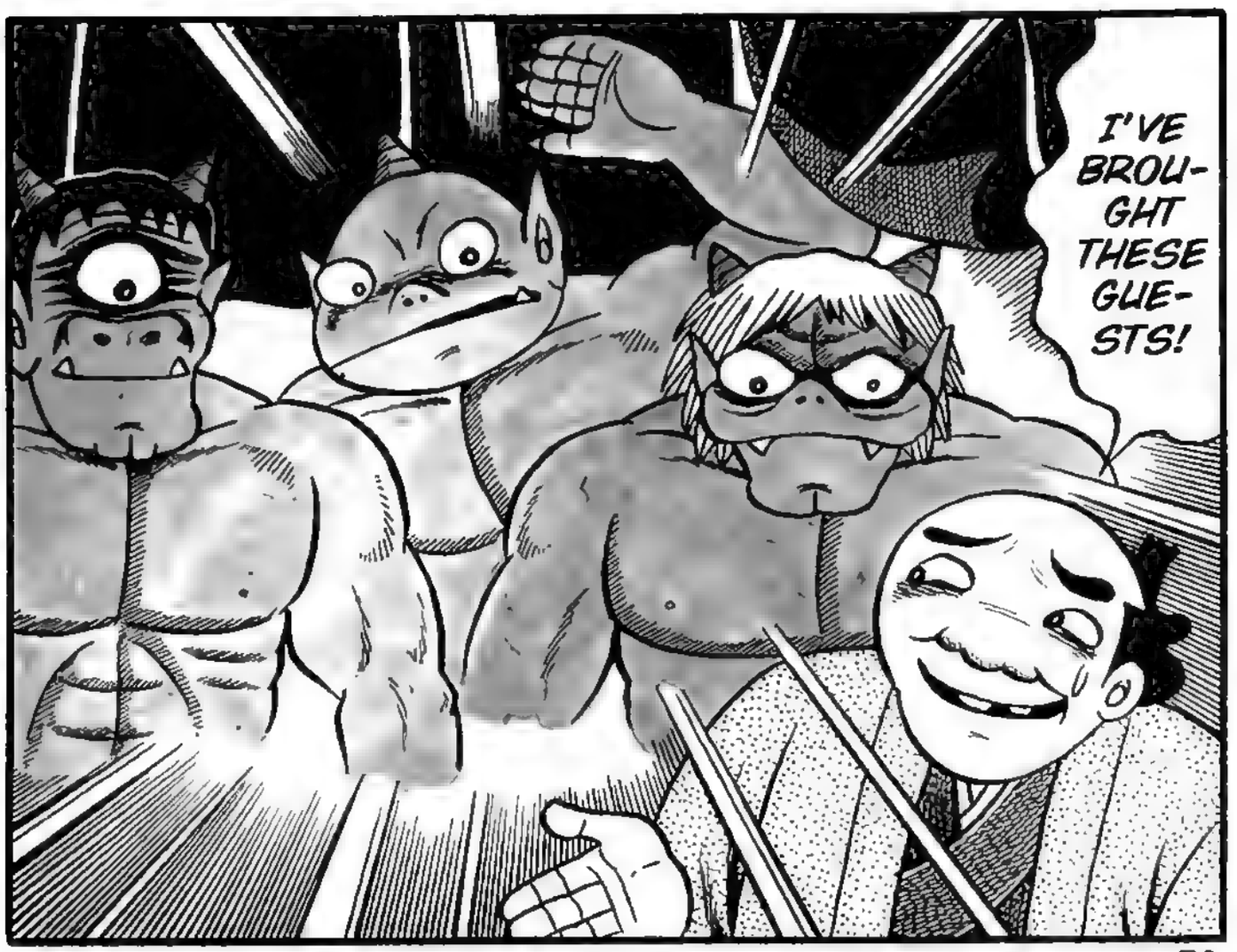
...WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE AWAY ON BUSI-NESS.
WHEN WE WENT TO YOUR HOUSE IN NARA...
WE CAME A LONG WAY ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT YOU WERE ALREADY GONE.
SO WE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO GO TO WHERE YOU HAD GONE.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU GO NOW.
THEN WE RUN INTO YOU HERE BY CHANCE!
BUT... BUT...
WAAH ...

MY BELLY IS SO EMPTY THAT I CAN'T EVEN STAND.
WE'RE EXHAUSTED BECAUSE WE HAD TO CHASE YOU.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY-THING TO EAT?
GO AHEAD AND HELP YOURSELVES IF YOU LIKE...
HERE, THIS IS THE RICE I BROUGHT FOR MY-SELF.

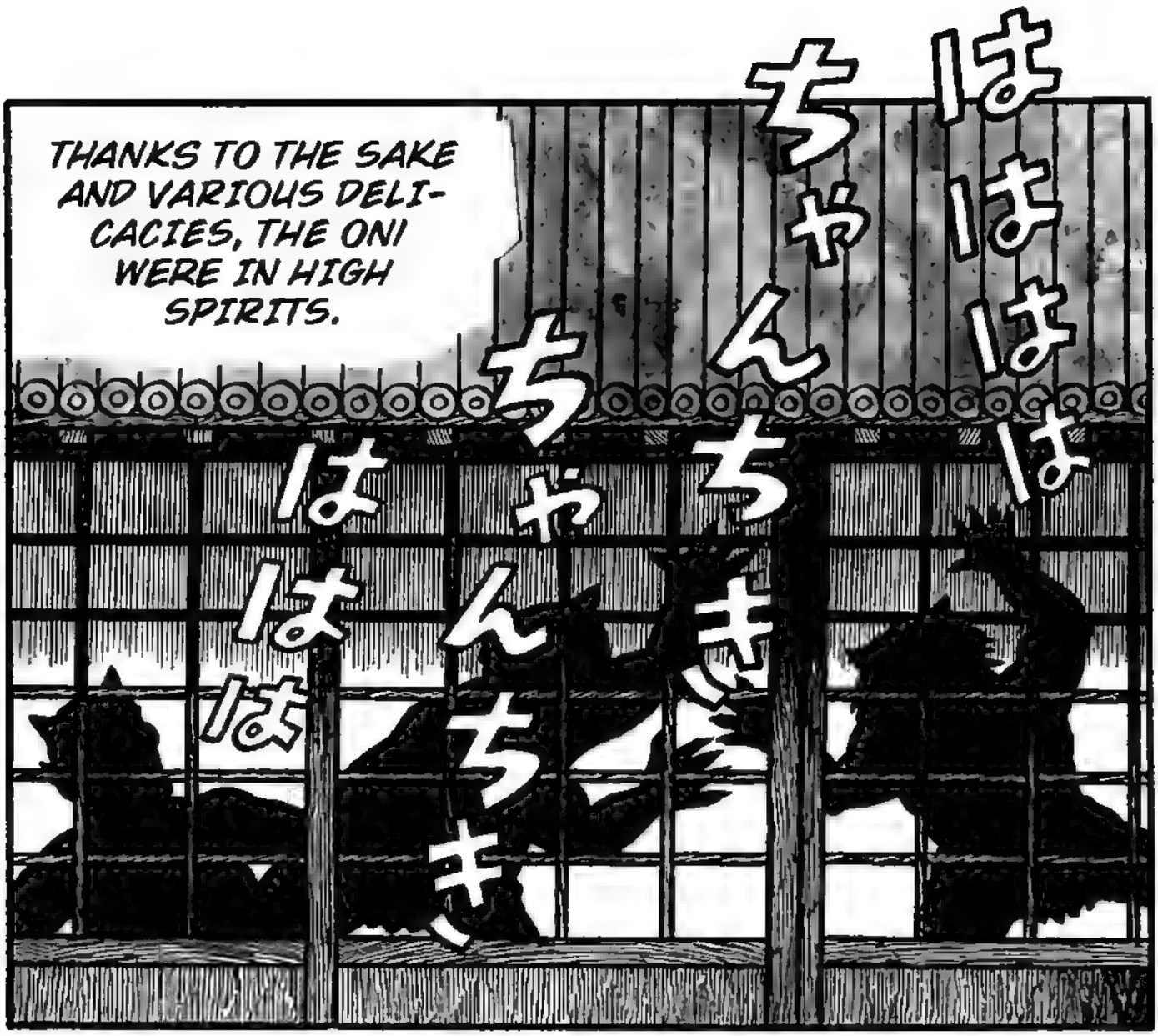
ペロリ
THEY LOOK REALLY TASTY.
WE ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.
んごっ
パクッ
もぐもぐ


WHAT YOU GAVE US WASN'T ENOUGH. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY-THING ELSE TO EAT?
HOW COULD I? I'M TRAVEL-LING!
HEY, ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY?
YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT THAT!
WA-AAH !!
THERE I COULD OFFER YOU ALL THE DELICACIES YOU DESIRE.
WOULD YOU MAYBE LIKE TO COME TO MY HOUSE ?
LET'S GO RIGHT NOW!
I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!


HELLO, THERE. I'M FINALLY BACK!
OOH, MASTER!
WELCOME BACK!


I'VE BROUGHT THESE GUESTS!

WAAAH !!
TH-THOSE ARE OGRES !!
KYAAAA!!
ONLY THE BEST STUFF, MIND YOU!
SERVE THEM SAKE AND SOMETHING TO EAT! AND HURRY UP!
DROOL ...
SLURP !!
HI HI HI !!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ちゃんちゃんちき
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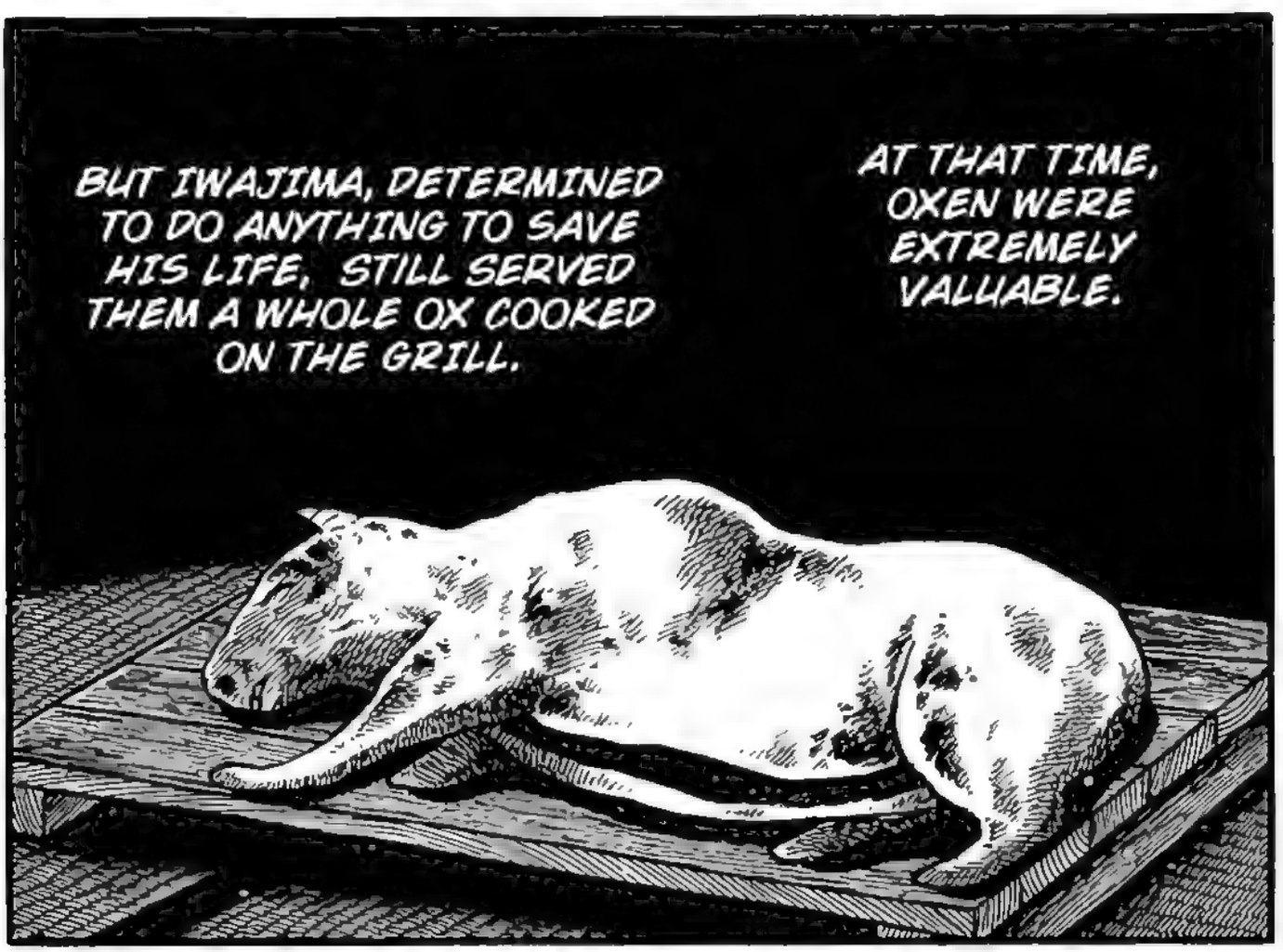
はははは
THANKS TO THE SAKE AND VARIOUS DELICACIES, THE ONI WERE IN HIGH SPIRITS.

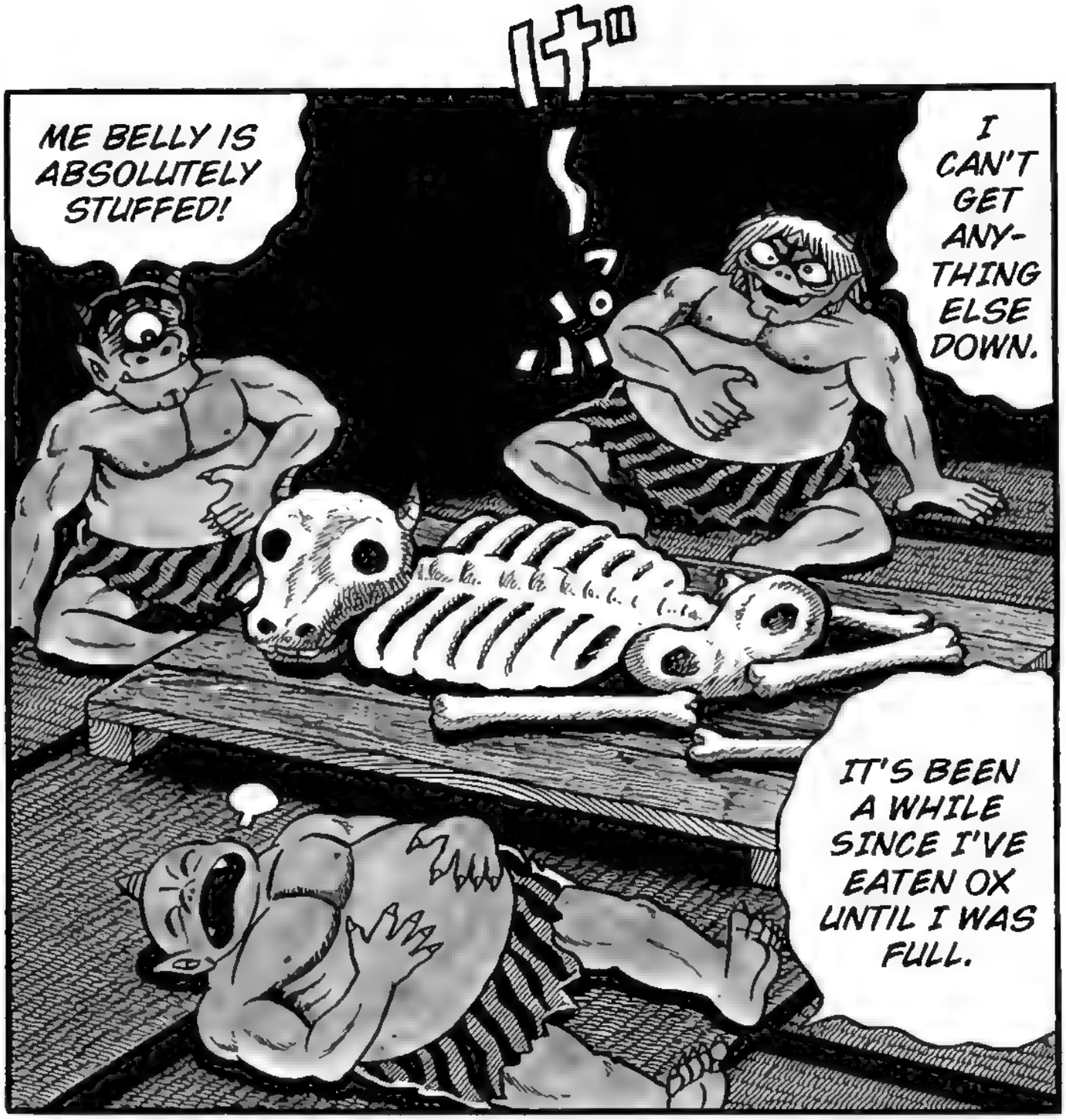
I PROMISED YOU, DIDN'T I? ASK FOR WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

OOH, I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.
HERE, DRINK, DRINK!

IF YOU COULD HAVE A WHOLE OX... YOU KNOW, WE'D LOVE THAT...
WELL, WE WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT, BUT...

ALRIGHT, I'LL GET ONE READY FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY.
WHAT?! A WHOLE OX?!

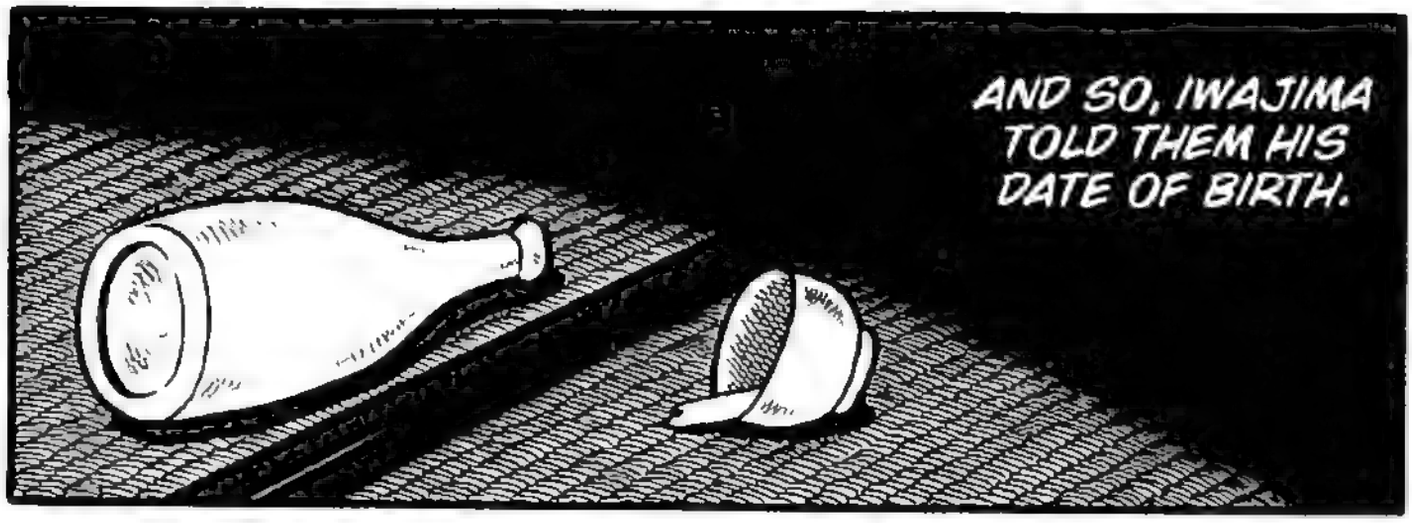

BUT IWAJIMA, DETERMINED TO DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HIS LIFE, STILL SERVED THEM A WHOLE OX COOKED ON THE GRILL.
AT THAT TIME, OXEN WERE EXTREMELY VALUABLE.


ME BELLY IS ABSOLUTELY STUFFED!
I CAN'T GET ANY-THING ELSE DOWN.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE EATEN OX UNTIL I WAS FULL.

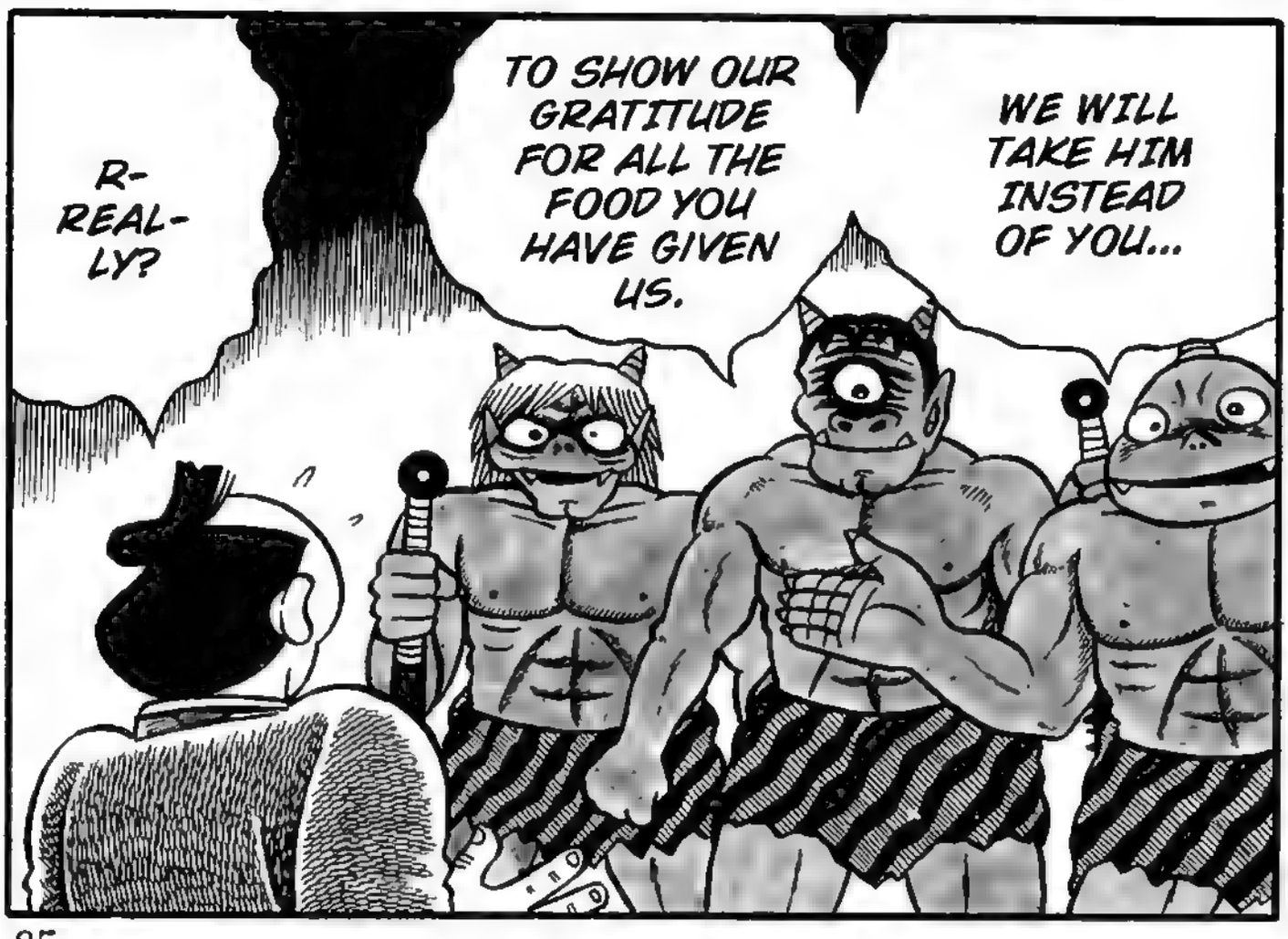
SO YOU'RE SATISFIED?
UMMM ...

WE JUST CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL THE TREATS.
NOW I FEEL KIND OF BAD FOR HAVING TO TAKE YOU TO HELL.
HMM ...
OTHERWISE, THE LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD WOULD FLY INTO A RAGE AND BEAT US WITH HIS IRON CLUB.
BUT IT REALLY CAN'T BE HELPED.
ぼ・ぼ・そ・そ
.....

GULP ...
LISTEN, IWA-JIMA...
Y-YES ?
キッ
クッ
TELL US YOUR DATE OF BIRTH.
THE YEAR I WAS BORN?

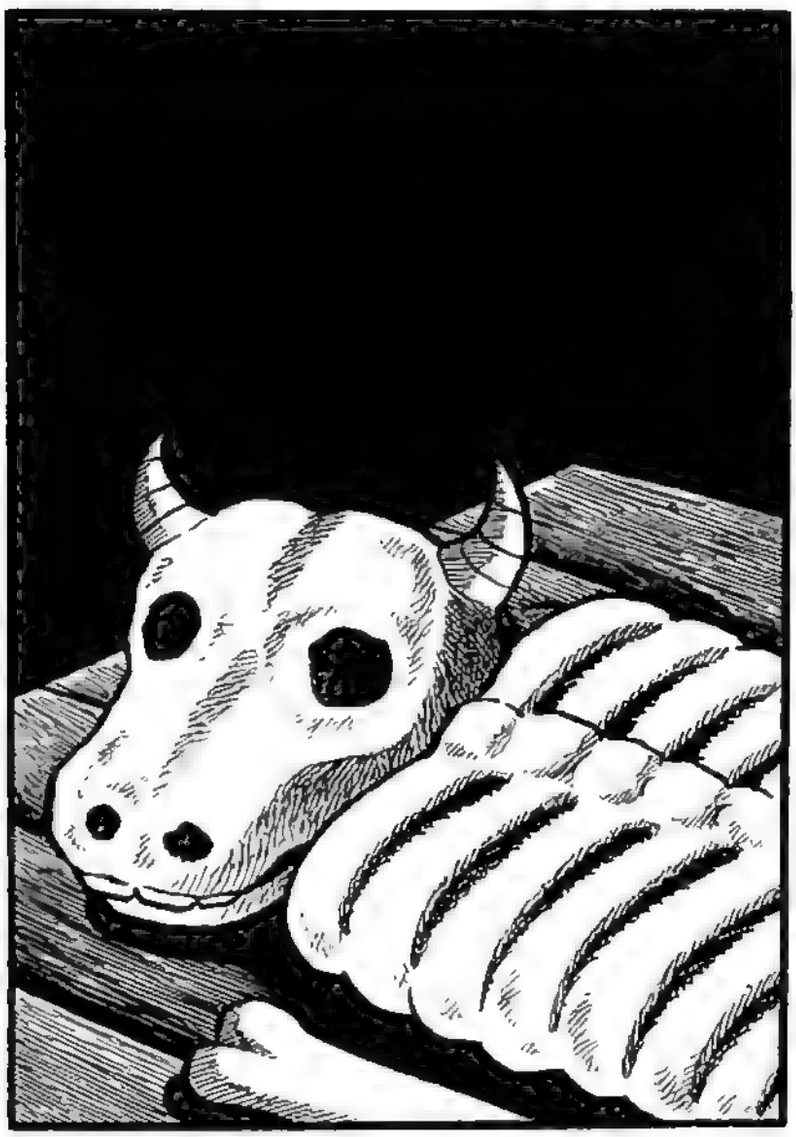

AND SO, IWAJIMA TOLD THEM HIS DATE OF BIRTH.

A MAN WITH THE SAME DATE AS YOU!
OOOH! LOOK!

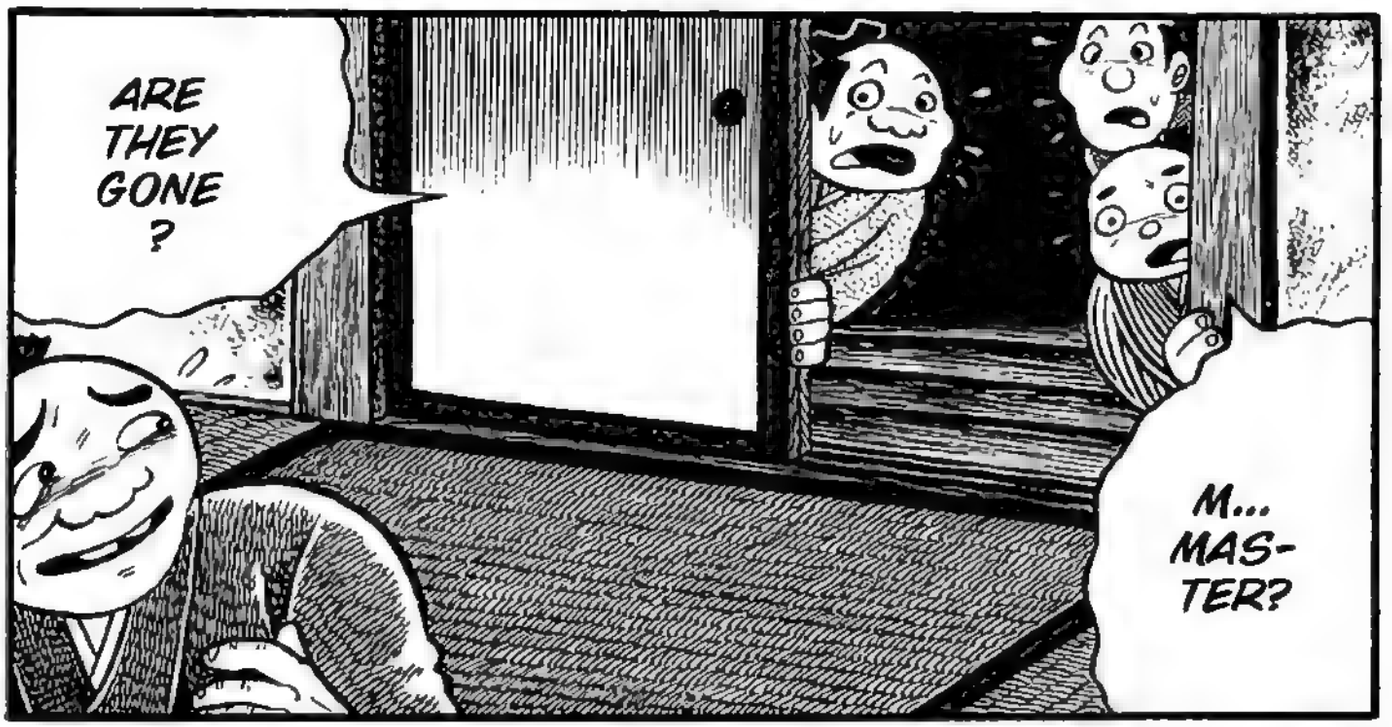

R-REAL-LY?
TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE FOOD YOU HAVE GIVEN US.
WE WILL TAKE HIM INSTEAD OF YOU...

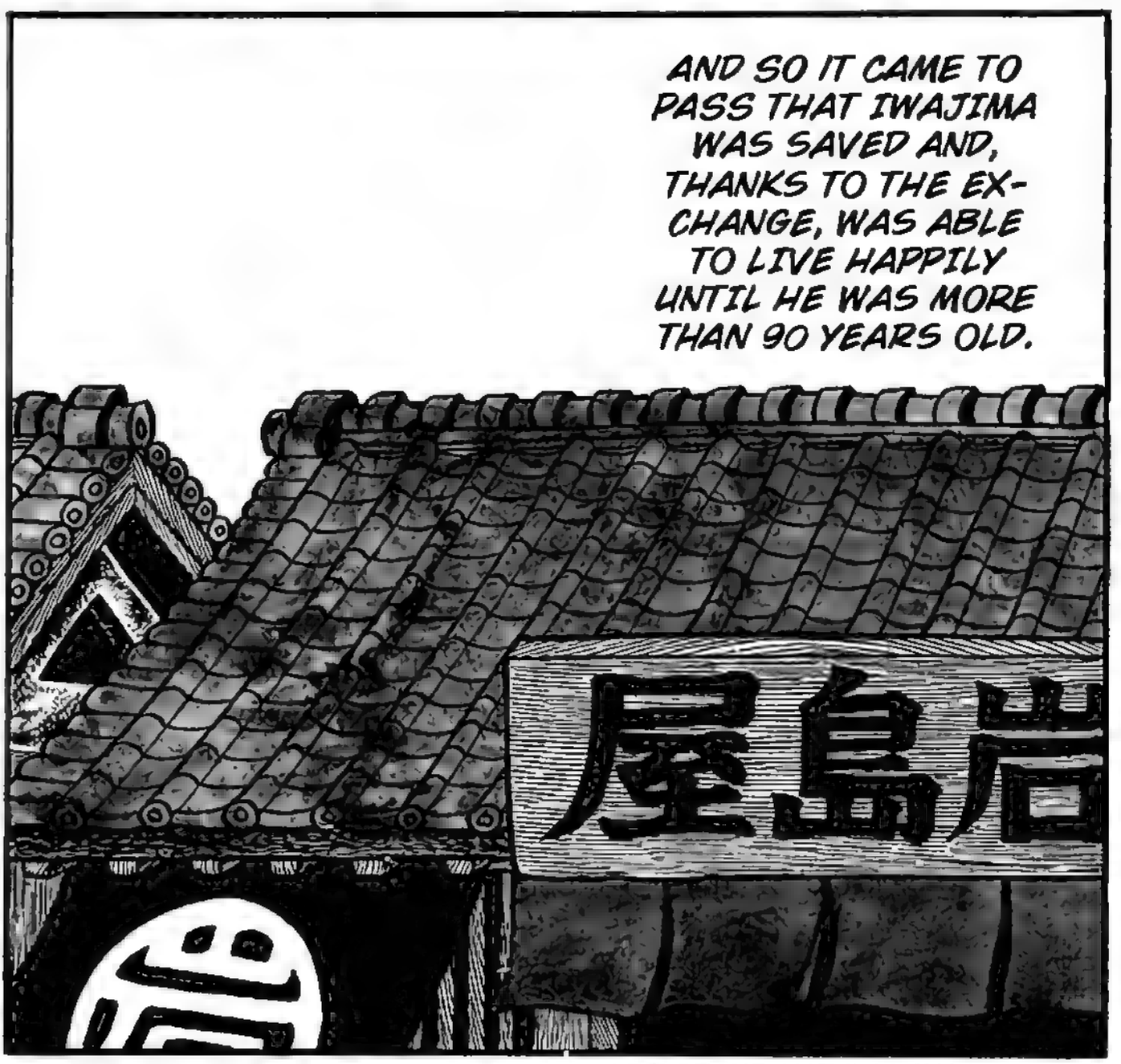
COME ON, LET'S GO ...
BY NOW OUR LORD MUST BE IMPATIENT. WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GO BACK.
WELL... LOOKS LIKE WE ALL AGREE.
LET'S GET MOVING, COME ON!
GEE, LET'S HOPE NOT!
IF WE DELAY IT ANY LONGER, I HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH OF A BEATING WILL AWAIT US.
HUH ?!

TH-
THEY DIS-
APPEAR-
ED!
BYE!



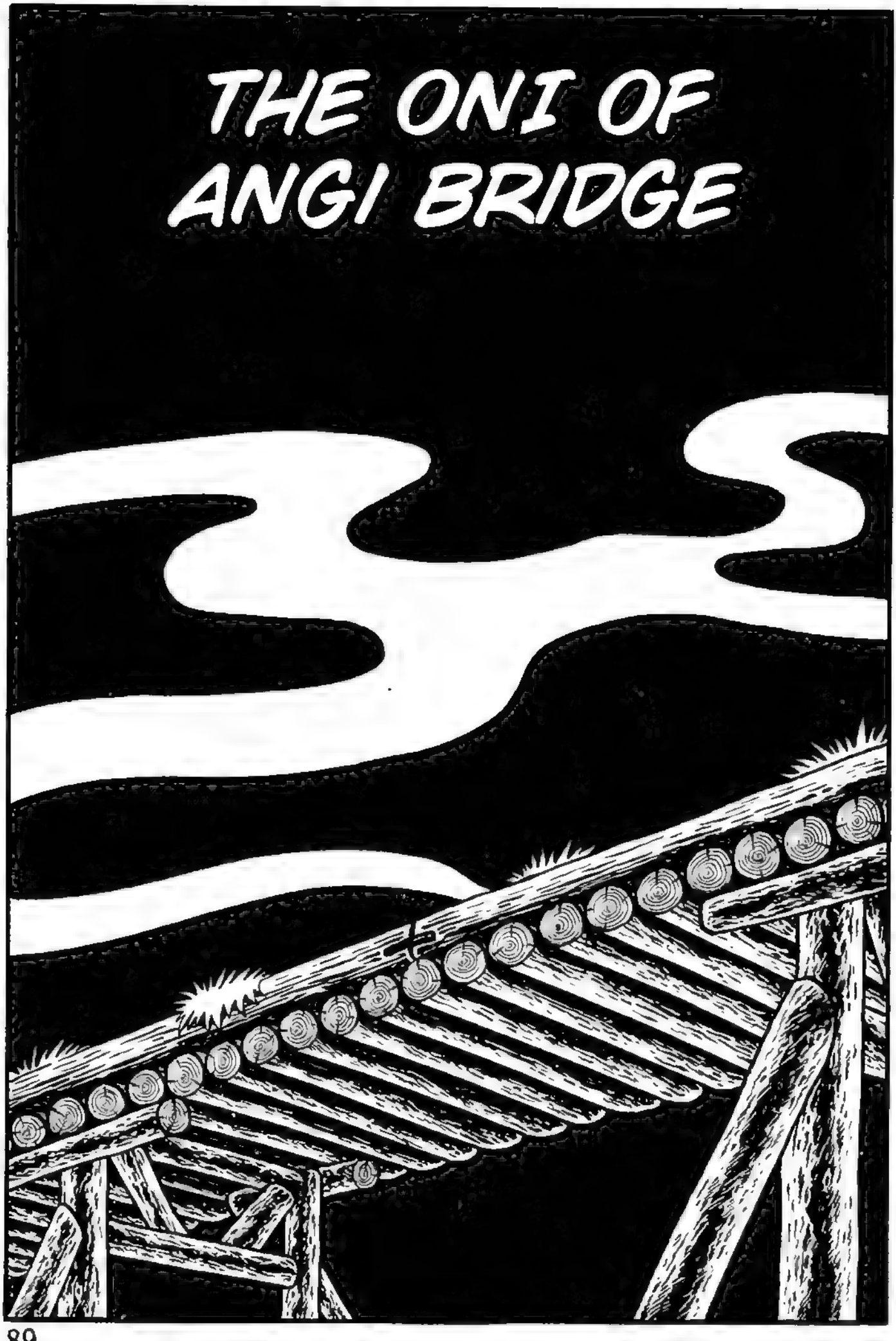
A-AM I
REALLY
SAFE?

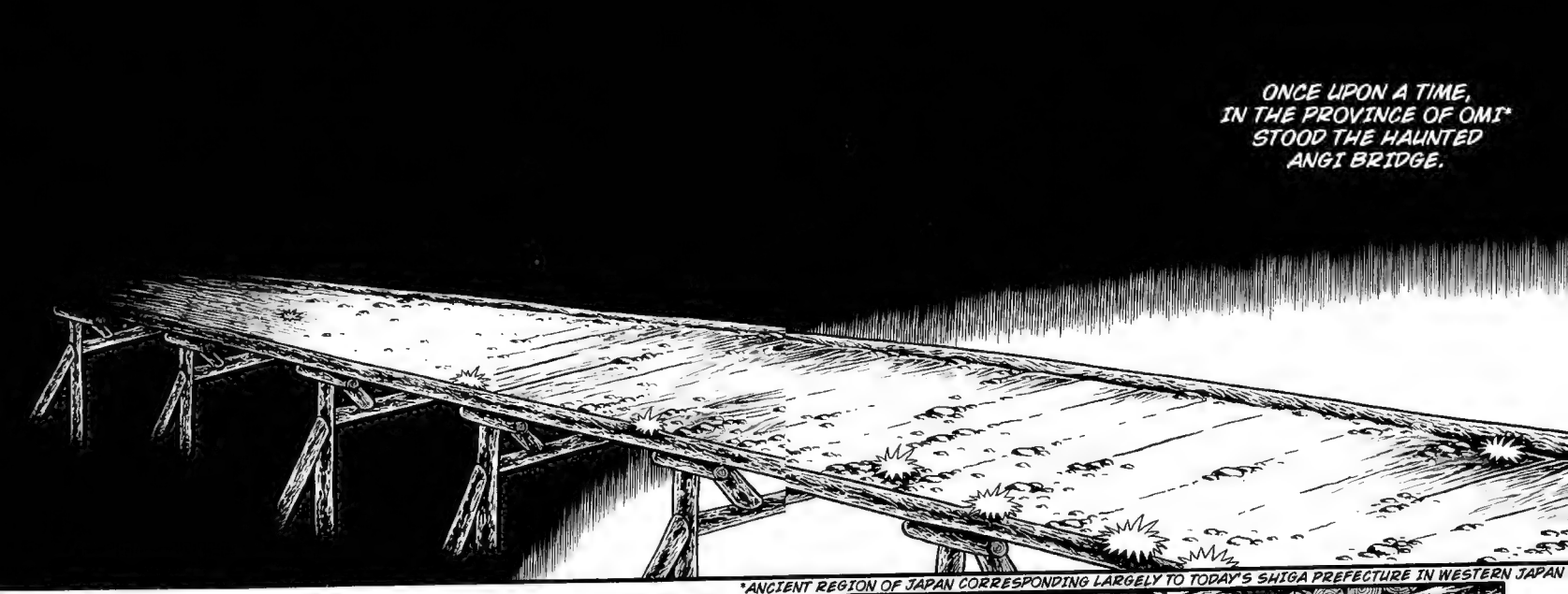



AND SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT IWAJIMA WAS SAVED AND, THANKS TO THE EX-CHANGE, WAS ABLE TO LIVE HAPPILY UNTIL HE WAS MORE THAN 90 YEARS OLD.
屋島岩

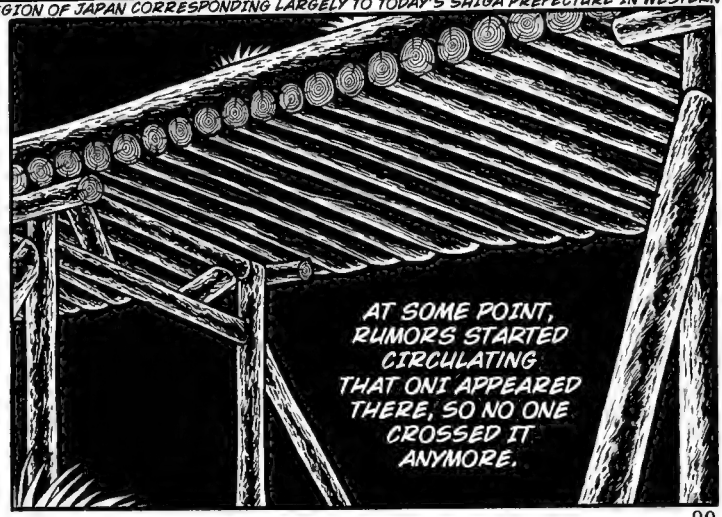
*RESTAURANT IWAJIMA

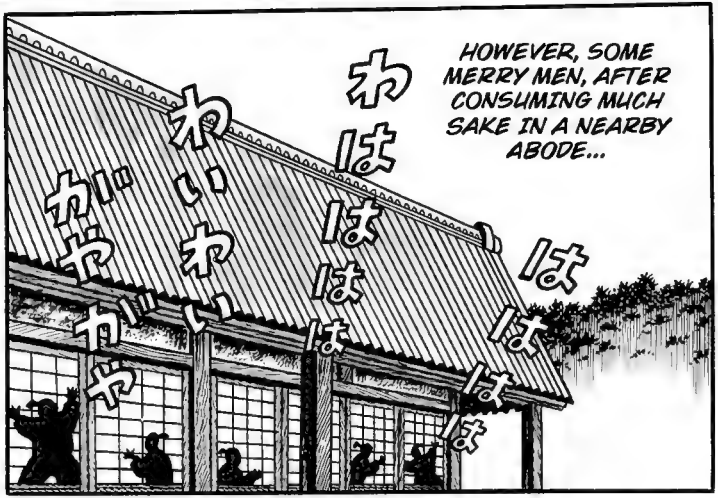
THE ONI OF ANGI BRIDGE





*ANCIENT REGION OF JAPAN CORRESPONDING LARGELY TO TODAY'S SHIGA PREFECTURE IN WESTERN JAPAN





THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
HAHA HAHA HAHA HA!
I'M SERIOUS. DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS ACTUALLY SEEN AN ONI?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT ONI DON'T EXIST!
IF YOU INSIST, I'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE!
THIS'LL BE FUN!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WHOA !!

WHY DON'T YOU GO AND CROSS IT RIGHT AWAY?
WE ALL HEARD YOU SAY IT!
YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK WHAT YOU JUST SAID!

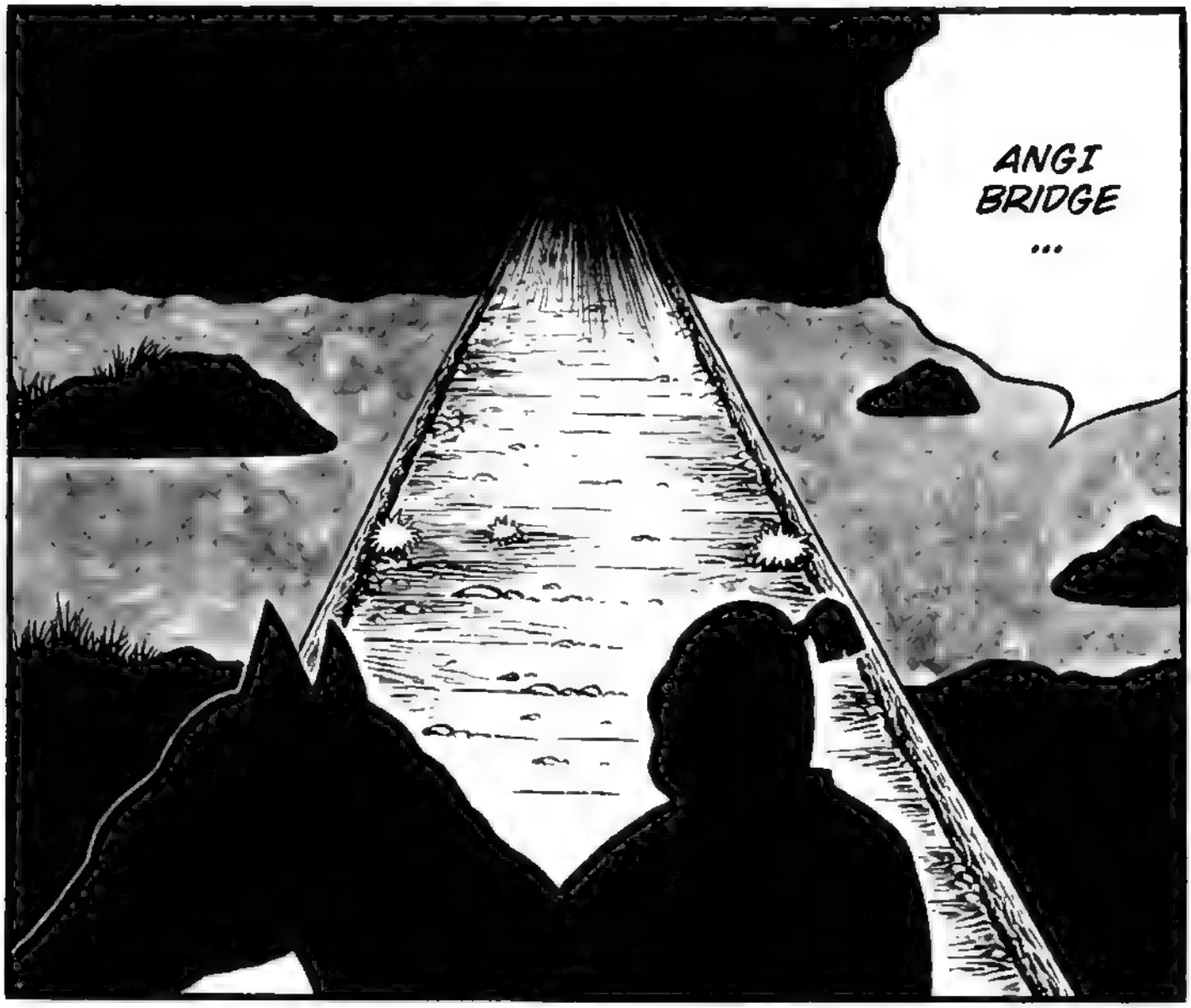
AN ORDINARY HORSE WON'T MAKE IT ACROSS THAT BRIDGE.
WAIT ...

IF HE AGREES TO LEND IT TO ME, I'D BE MORE THAN WILLING ...
I WOULD NEED A HORSE JUST LIKE THE ONE THE LOCAL LORD CARES SO MUCH ABOUT.

AAH! MASTER!
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
UHHHH ...
WELL, YOU SEE...
BUT IF YOU REALLY REQUIRE MY HORSE TO CROSS THE BRIDGE, THEN FEEL FREE TO TAKE IT. YOU CAN DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT WITH IT.
HAHAHA! ALL THIS FUSS OVER SOMETHING SO SILLY?

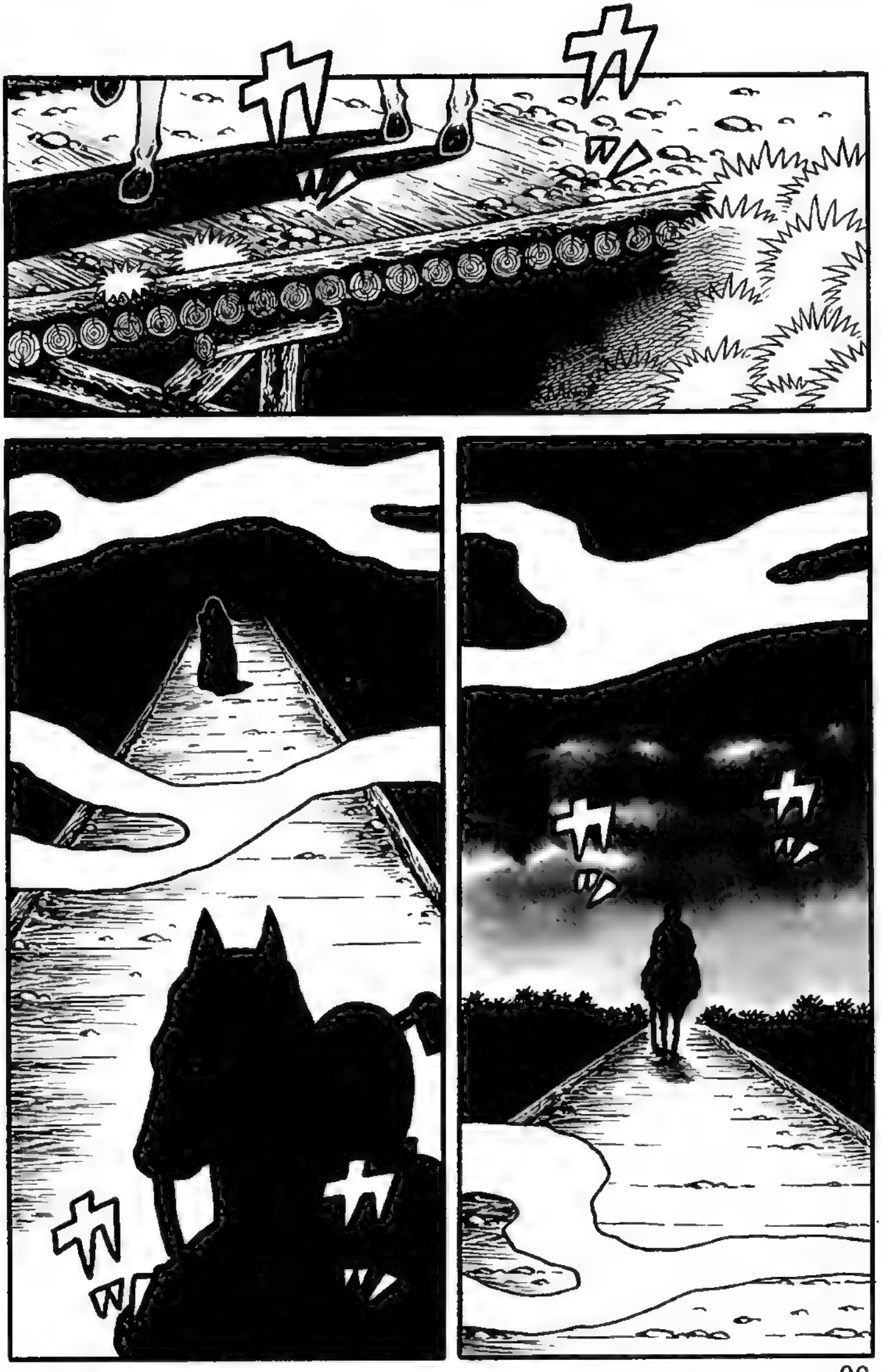
WHAT... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
HA HA ...
YOU ARE EVEN FREE TO KILL IT.
HEY! SOMEONE GO AND GET THE HORSE FOR HIM RIGHT AWAY!
YOU GOT THE LORD'S APPROVAL.
HUHU! AS YOU'VE HEARD ...
WAAH!

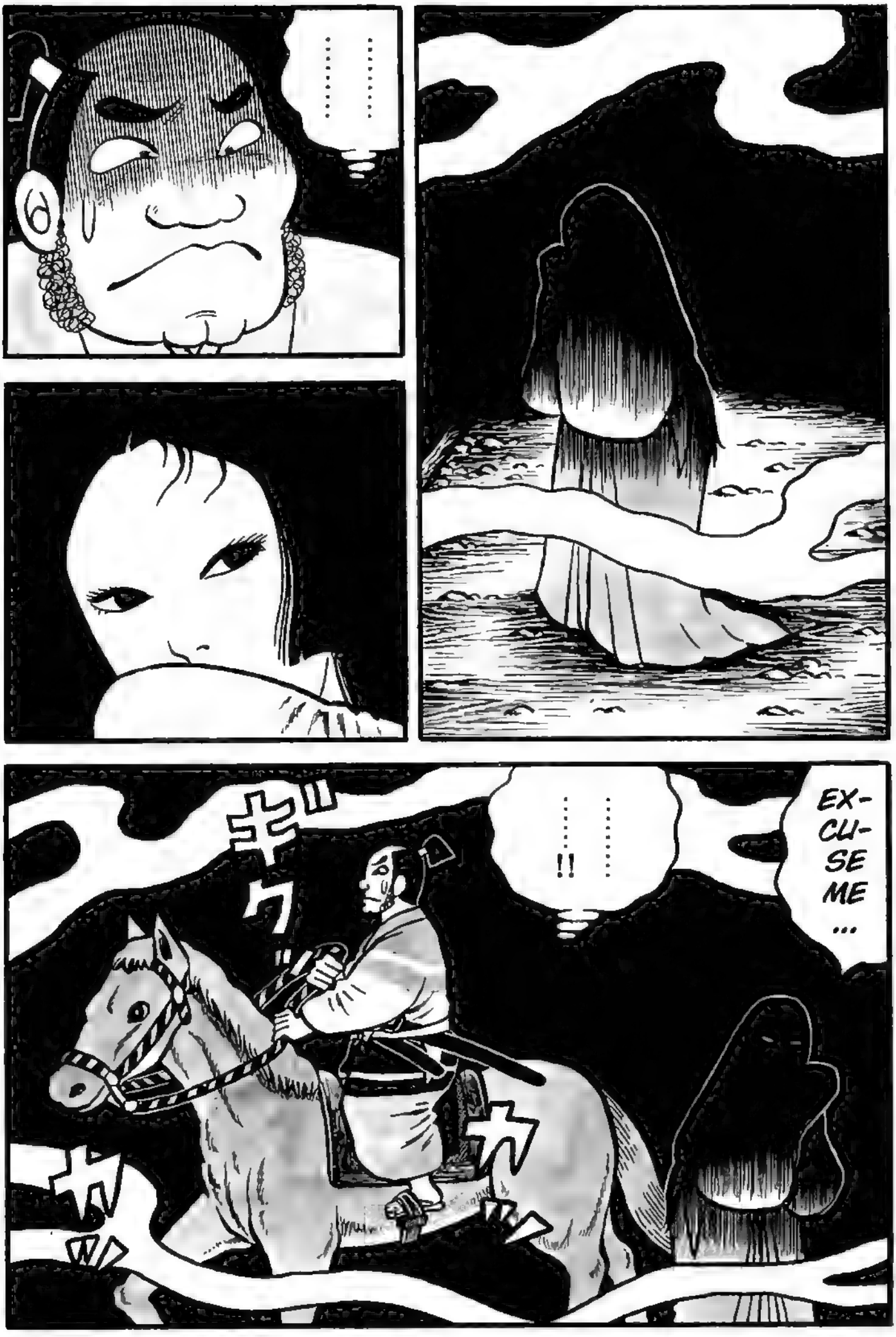
THAT'S QUITE THE MESS I GOT MYSELF INTO ...
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE LORD WOULD GIVE ME HIS HORSE?
I WASN'T ABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF AFTER DRINKING ALL THAT SAKE.
URGH ...
THE SUN WENT DOWN A LONG TIME AGO.


ANGI
BRIDGE
...

FINE!

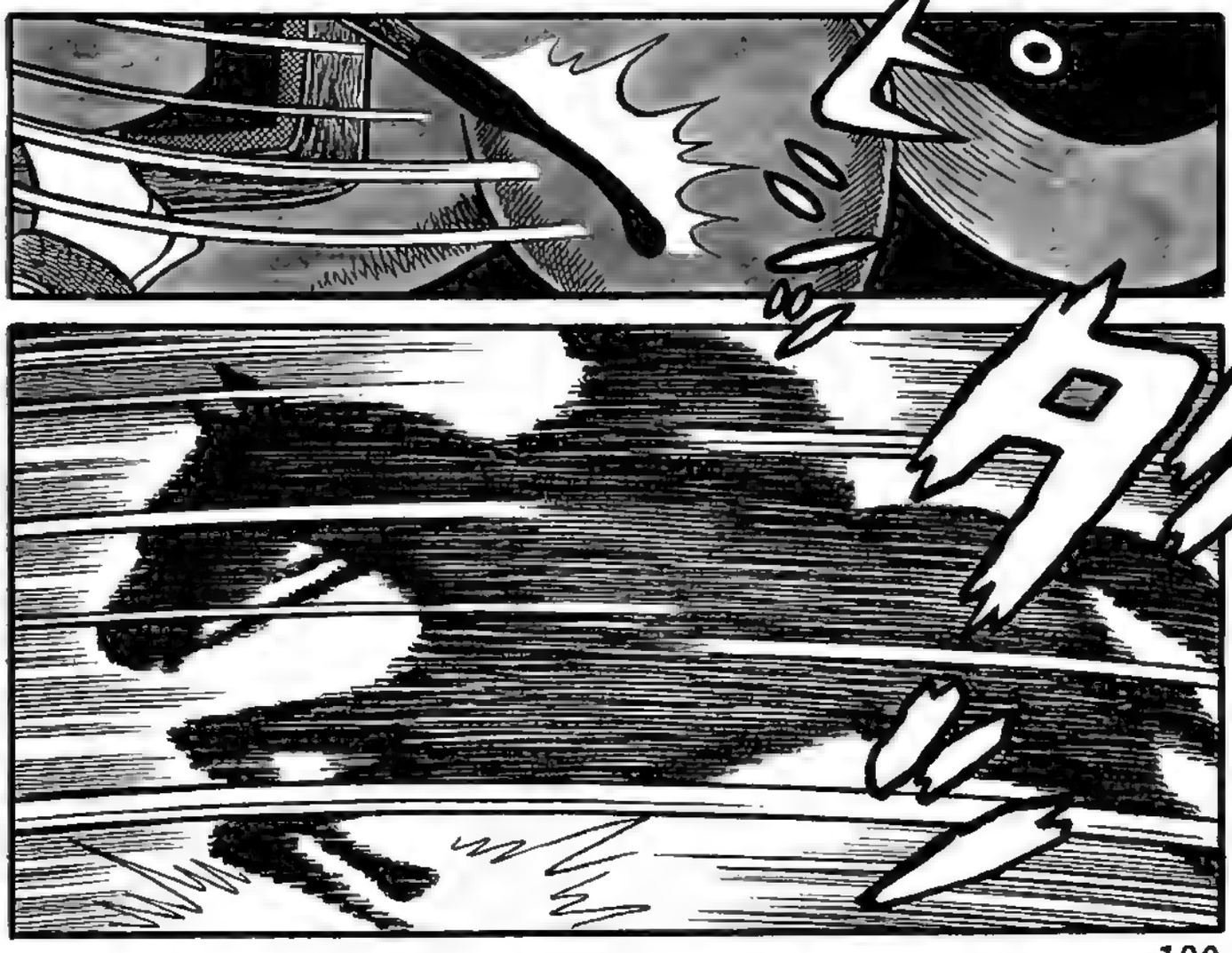
GULP

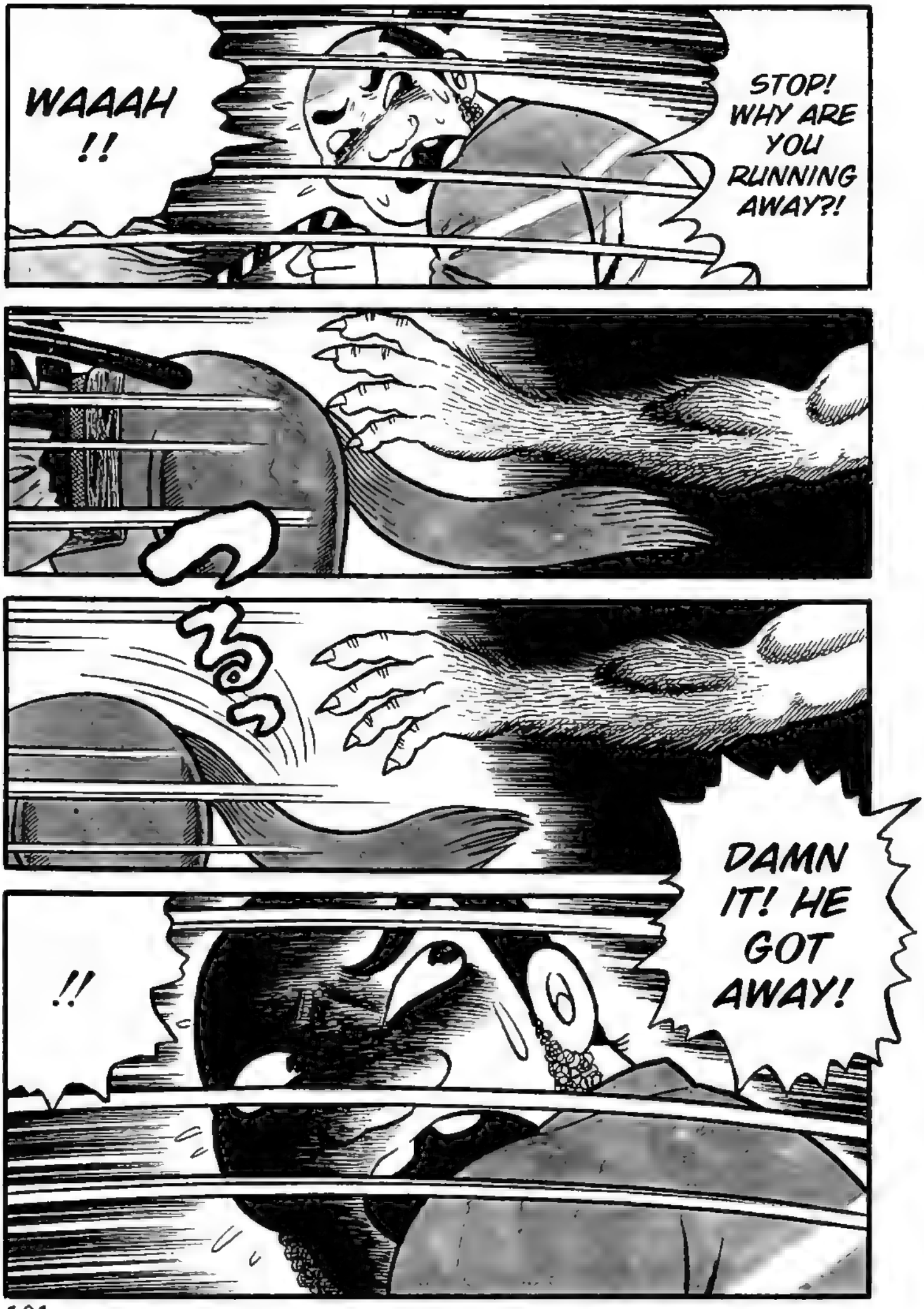



……
……
!!
EX-
CU-
SE
ME
...

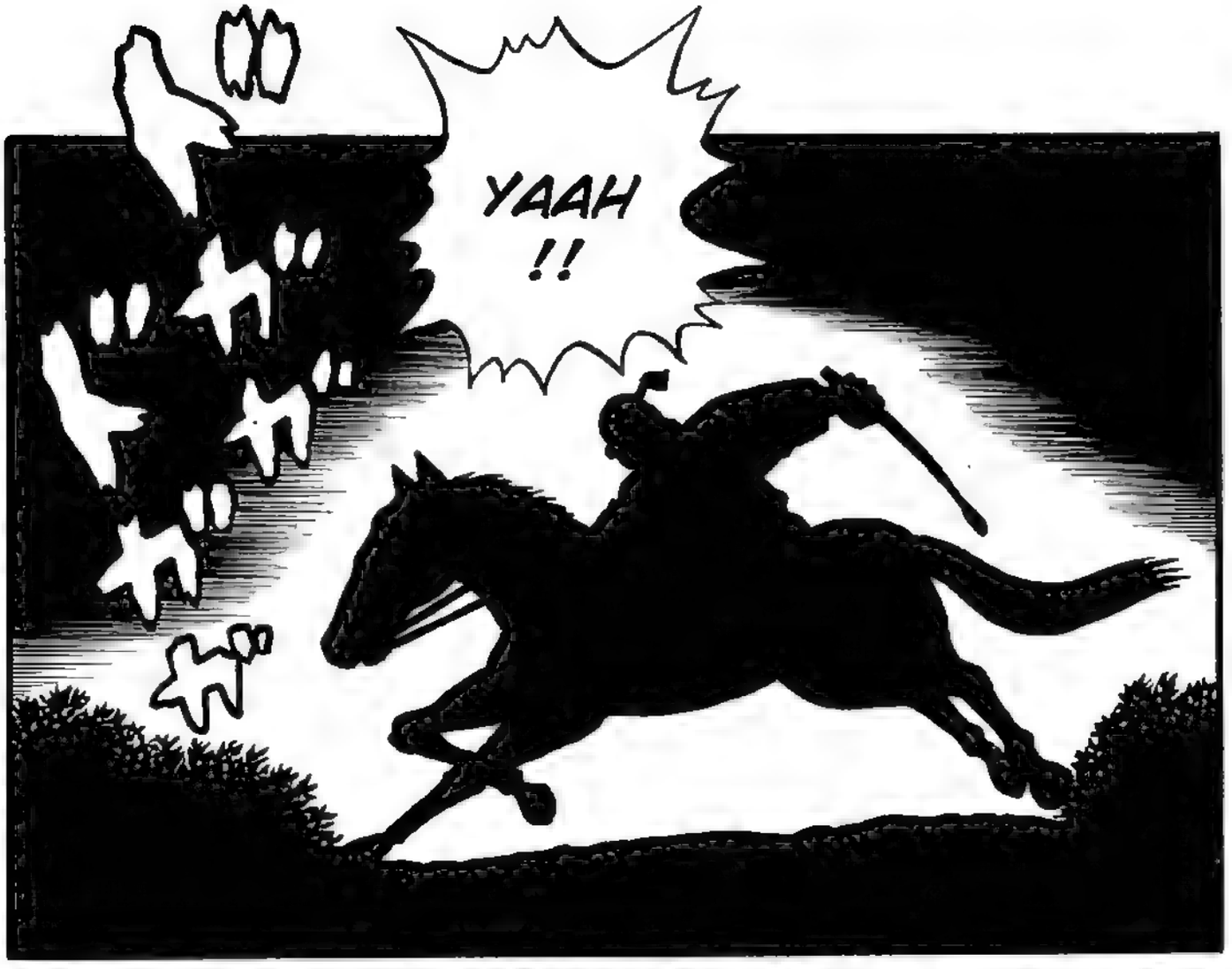
I HAVE LOST MY COMPANIONS AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE. PLEASE HELP ME!
WHY DO YOU PASS BY WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?

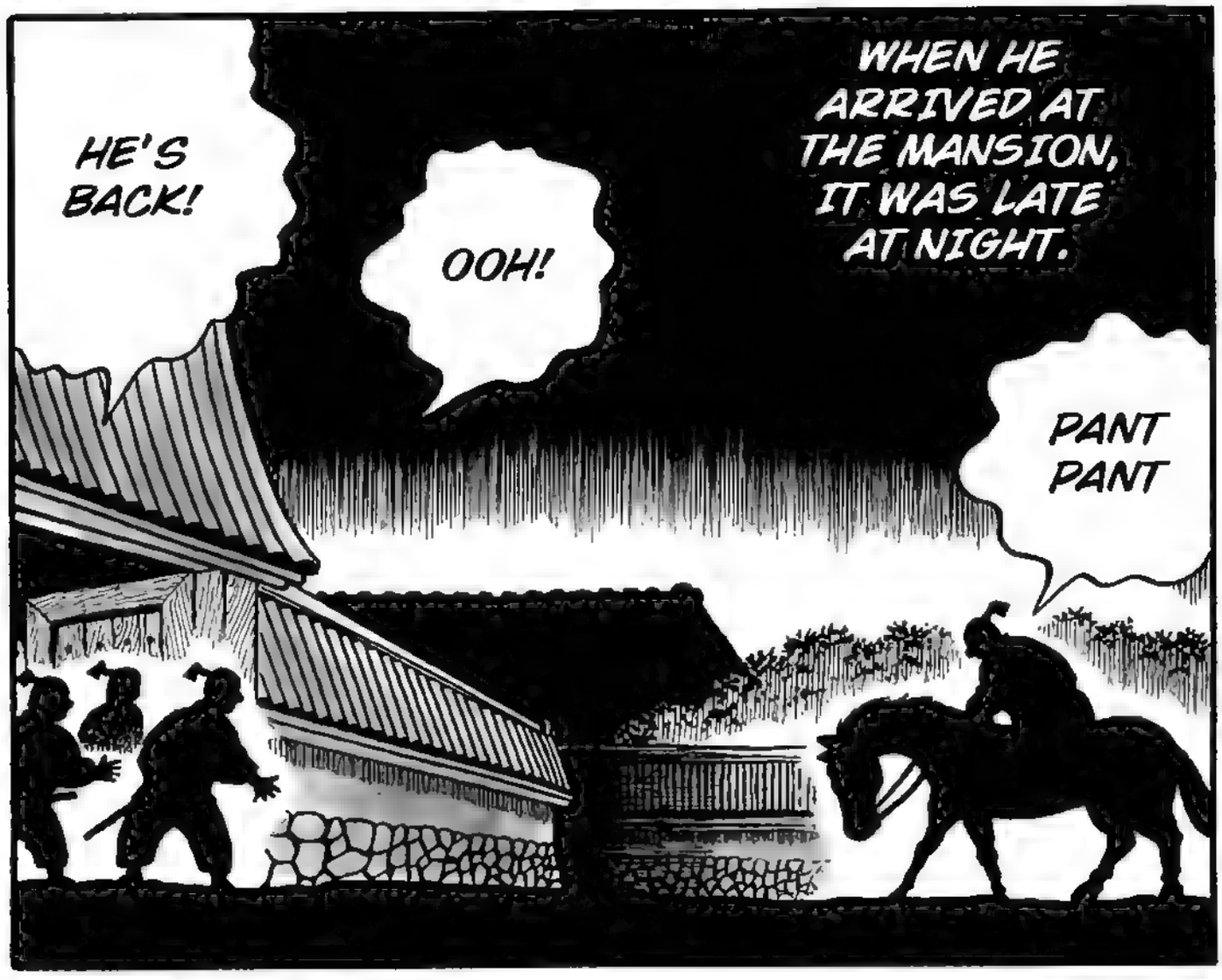
SO... COULD IT BE THAT SHE IS AN ONI?! WAAAH! THAT HAS TO BE IT!
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL, YOUNG WOMAN HAS NO REASON TO BE ALONE IN SUCH A SCARY PLACE.




WAAAH !!
STOP! WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!
DAMN IT! HE GOT AWAY!
!!

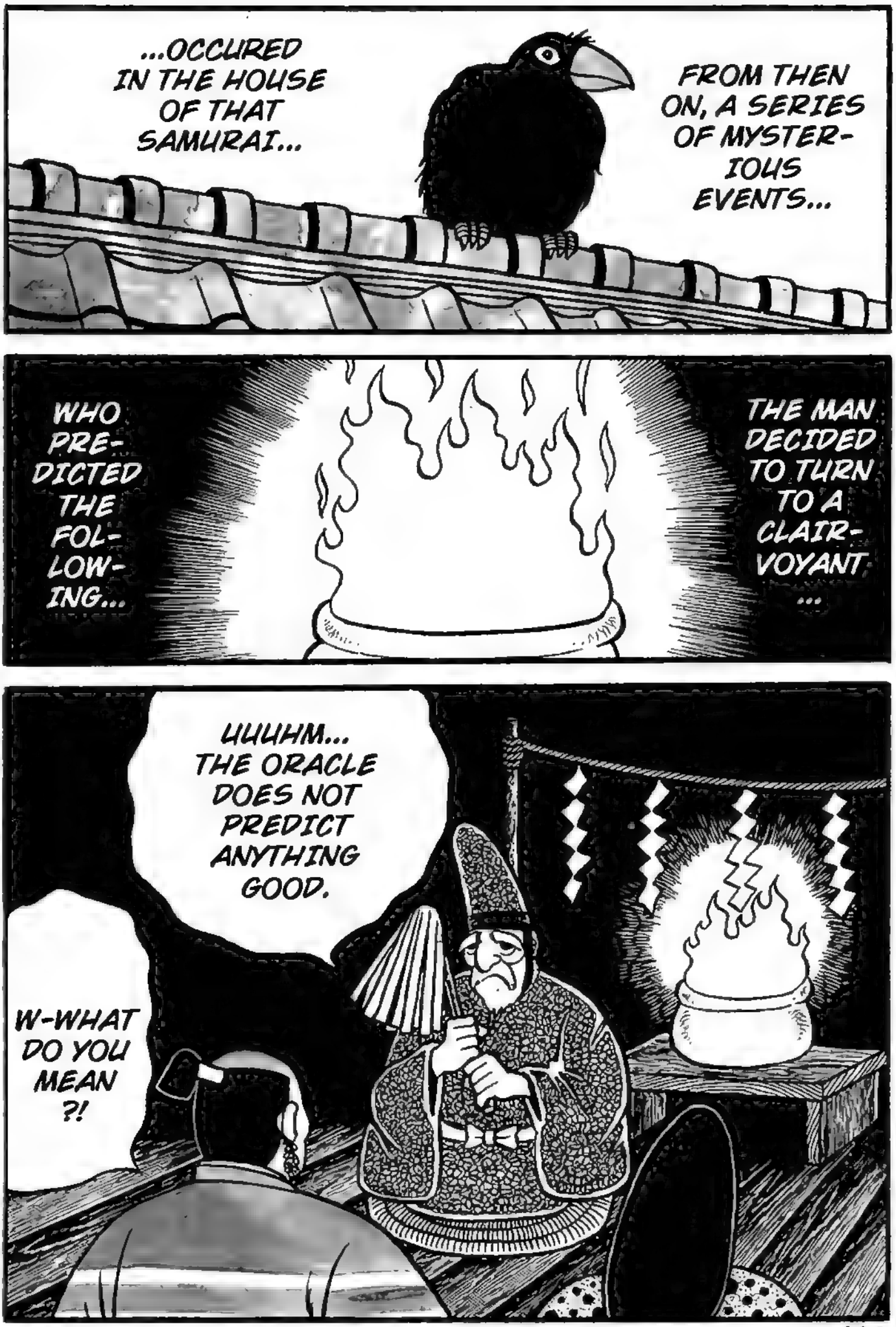
YOU MANAGED TO GET AWAY TONIGHT, BUT ONE DAY I WILL SURELY KILL YOU!
WAAAH !!


YAAH
!!


WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE MANSION, IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT.
HE'S BACK!
OOH!
PANT PANT

WERE THERE ANY ONI?!
HOW WAS IT?!
PANT PANT
LUCKILY, I HAD RUBBED OIL ON THE HORSE'S TAIL, SO THE ONI'S HAND SLIPPED AND I GOT AWAY!
I SURE DID! ONE EVEN CAME CLOSE TO CATCHING ME!
SO WE DO HAVE TO BE CARE-FUL...
YIKES!
SO THERE REALLY ARE ONI...

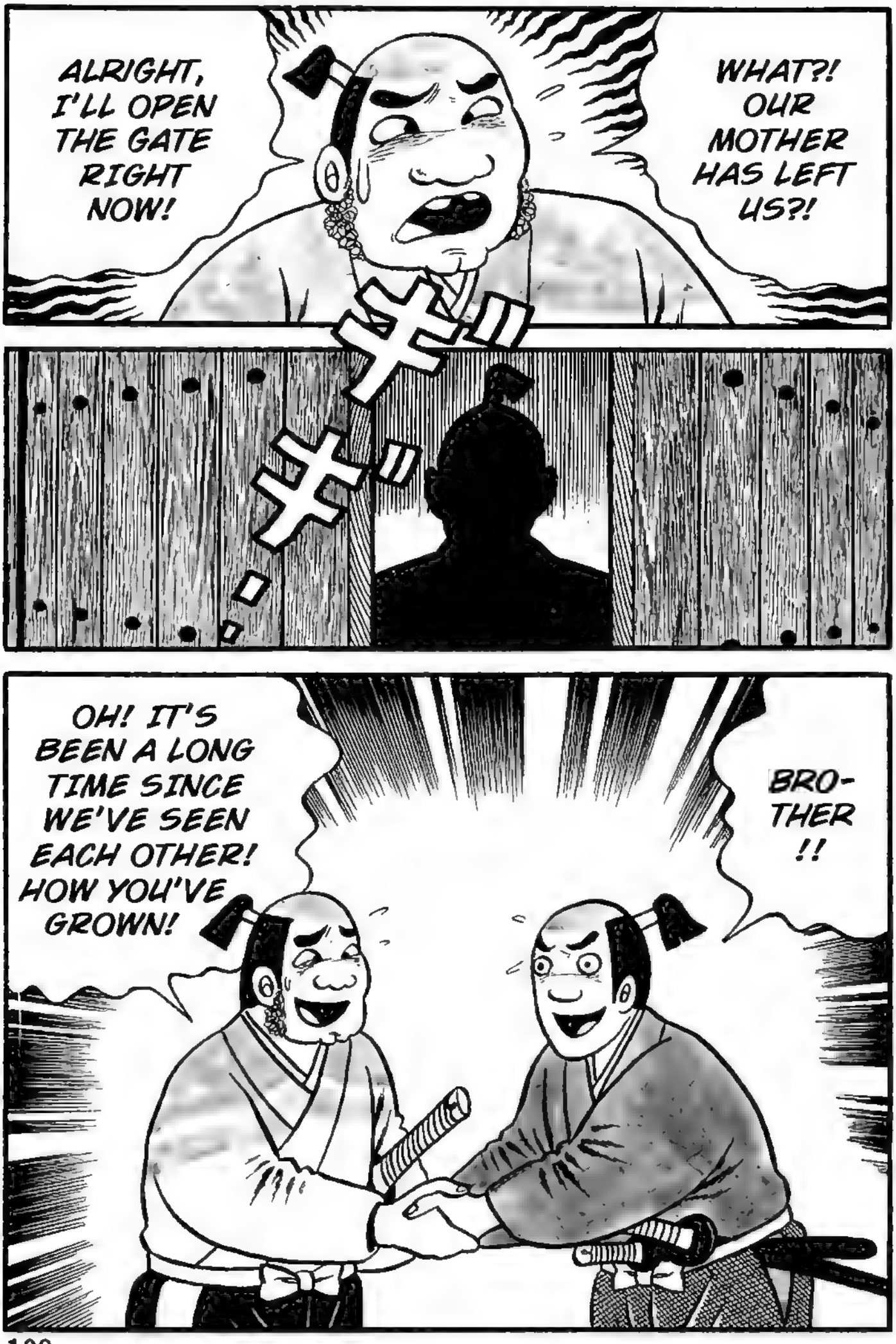
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE GOTTEN AWAY.
AH... OUR LORD!
YOUR PRIDE DROVE YOU TO DO SOME-THING CRAZY.
UMM... I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO APOLO-GIZE!
I WILL GIVE YOU THAT HORSE AS A GIFT.
I HAVE DECIDED TO REWARD YOUR COURAGE.
I SURELY WILL!
PUT IT TO GOOD USE.


...OCCURED IN THE HOUSE OF THAT SAMURAI...
FROM THEN ON, A SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS EVENTS...
WHO PREDICTED THE FOLLOWING...
THE MAN DECIDED TO TURN TO A CLAIRVOYANT...
UUUHM... THE ORACLE DOES NOT PREDICT ANYTHING GOOD.
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?!

EH ?!
SOMETHING TERRIFYING MIGHT HAPPEN IN THIS HOUSE TO-MORROW.
HON-EY...
AT THE SAME TIME, YOU MUST NOT LET ANYONE IN FOR ANY REASON!
YOU HAVE TO CLOSE THE GATE AND NOT GO OUT FOR ANY REASON!
.....
.....
!!
I... I UN-DER-STAND.

THE MAN DID AS HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE SEER. HE CLOSED THE GATE, BUT IN THE EVENING HIS YOUNGER BROTHER ARRIVED ALONG WITH HIS MANY SERVANTS AND HORSES, RETURNING FROM THE PROVINCE OF MICHINOKU*.
COULD YOU COME BACK TO-MORROW ?
SORRY, BROTHER, BUT I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR FOR YOU TODAY.
YOU MUST KNOW THAT OUR MOTHER DIED IN MICHINOKU* AND I CAME ESPECI-ALLY TO TELL YOU ABOUT HER FINAL MOMENTS!
BROTHER! HOW CAN YOU DISAPPOINT ME LIKE THIS? WHERE DO YOU THINK I CAN FIND SHELTER WITH ALL THE MEN AND HORSES I HAVE WITH ME?

*ANCIENT NAME FOR THE AREA THAT NOW INCLUDES THE PREFECTURES OF FUKUSHIMA, MIYAGI, IWATE AND AOMORI IN THE NORTH OF JAPAN.


ALRIGHT, I'LL OPEN THE GATE RIGHT NOW!
WHAT?! OUR MOTHER HAS LEFT US?!
キィ
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OH! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER! HOW YOU'VE GROWN!
BRO-THER !!

AND SO, THE TWO STARTED TALKING ABOUT THEIR DECEASED MOTHER.

I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO BE BY HER SIDE AT THE END.
I SEE... SHE MUST HAVE SUF-FERED A LOT.

SHE SAID SHE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
SHE ...

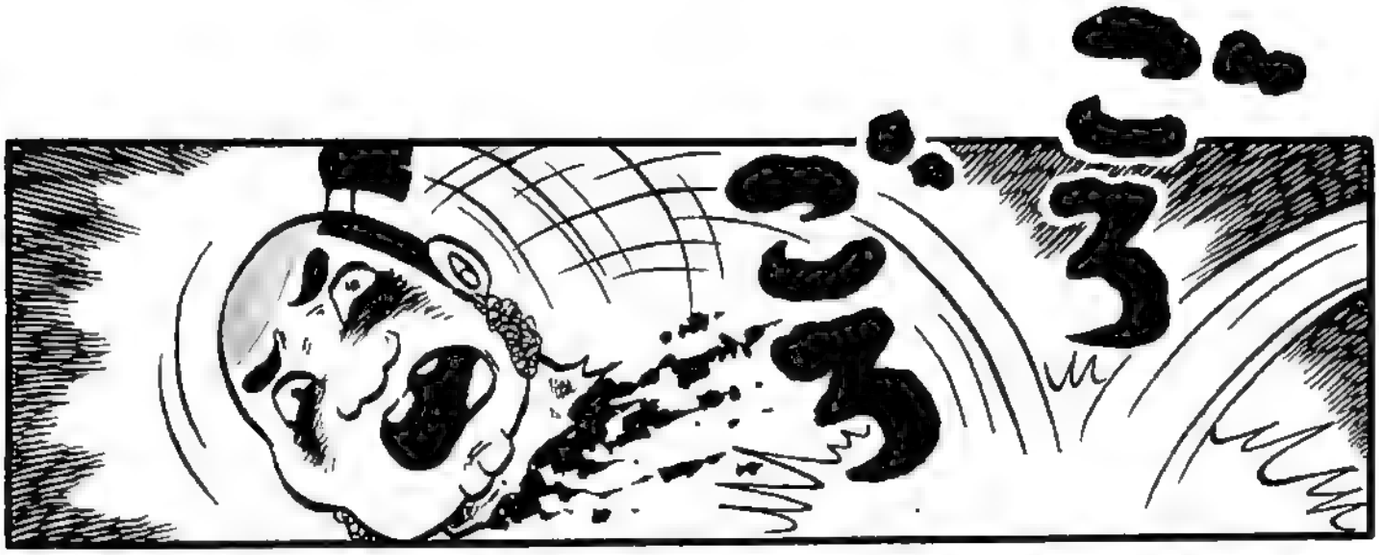
HEY! WHAT ...?!
THE SAMURAI'S WIFE, WHO WAS LISTENING FROM THE NEXT ROOM WAS MOVED TO TEARS.
と"
はなすん
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
ガバッ
HONEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!

HURRY UP AND BRING ME MY SWORD!
URGH !!
JUST DO AS I SAY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? THAT'S YOUR BROTHER!

YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND!
I CAN'T!
DO YOU WANT ME TO DIE ?!
YOU IDIOT!
WAAAH! DAMN IT!
GUAAH !!

HIHIHI HIHI!
HUHU HUHU HU!
GRO- ARRR !!

CRU-
NCH
!!
KYAA
!!

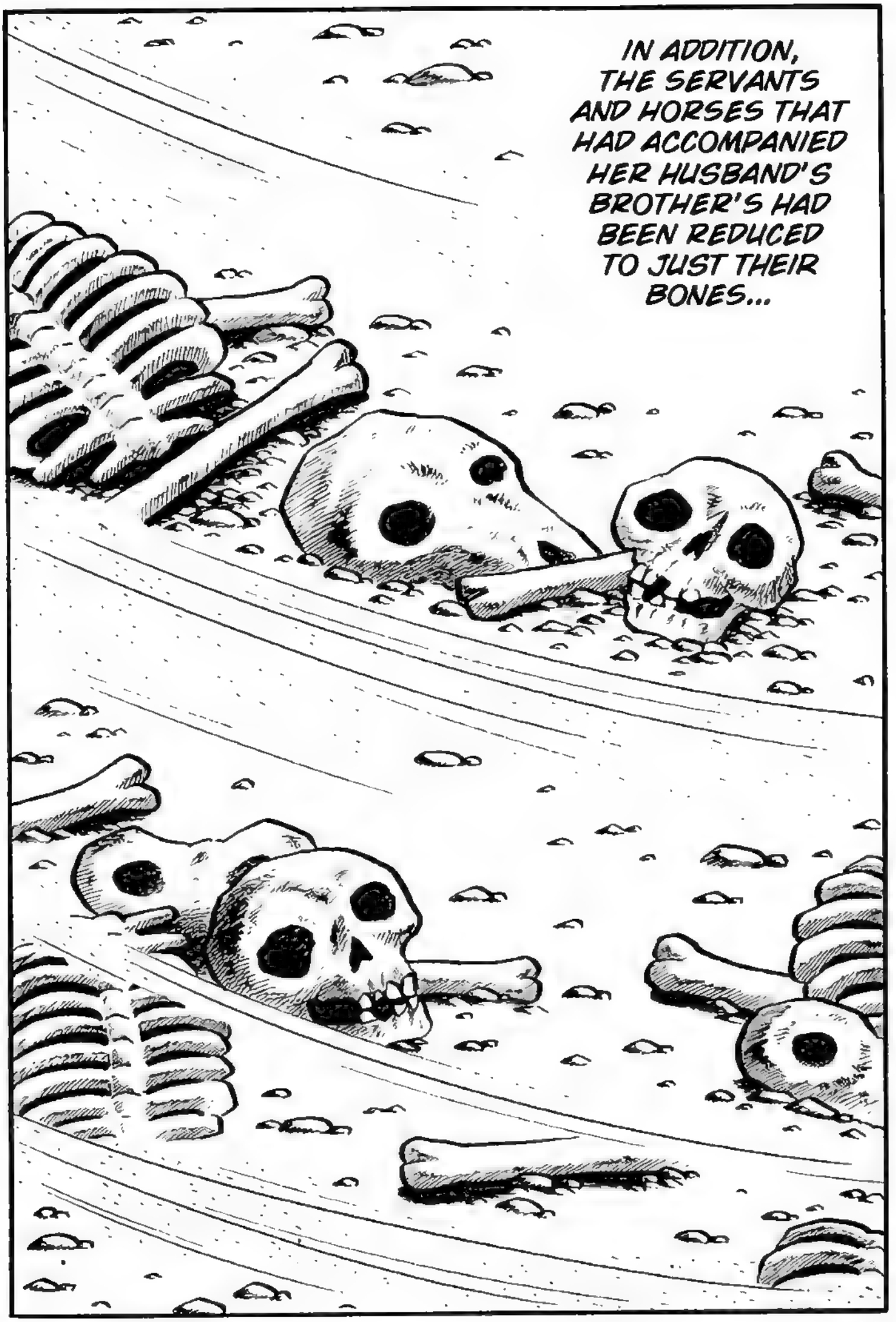


WAA-
AAH
!!

HAHAHA
HAHA!
STUPID
WOMAN!

HAVING SAID THAT, THE ONI DEPARTED WITH A GUST OF WIND, LEAVING BEHIND ONLY A WRETCHED LAUGH.

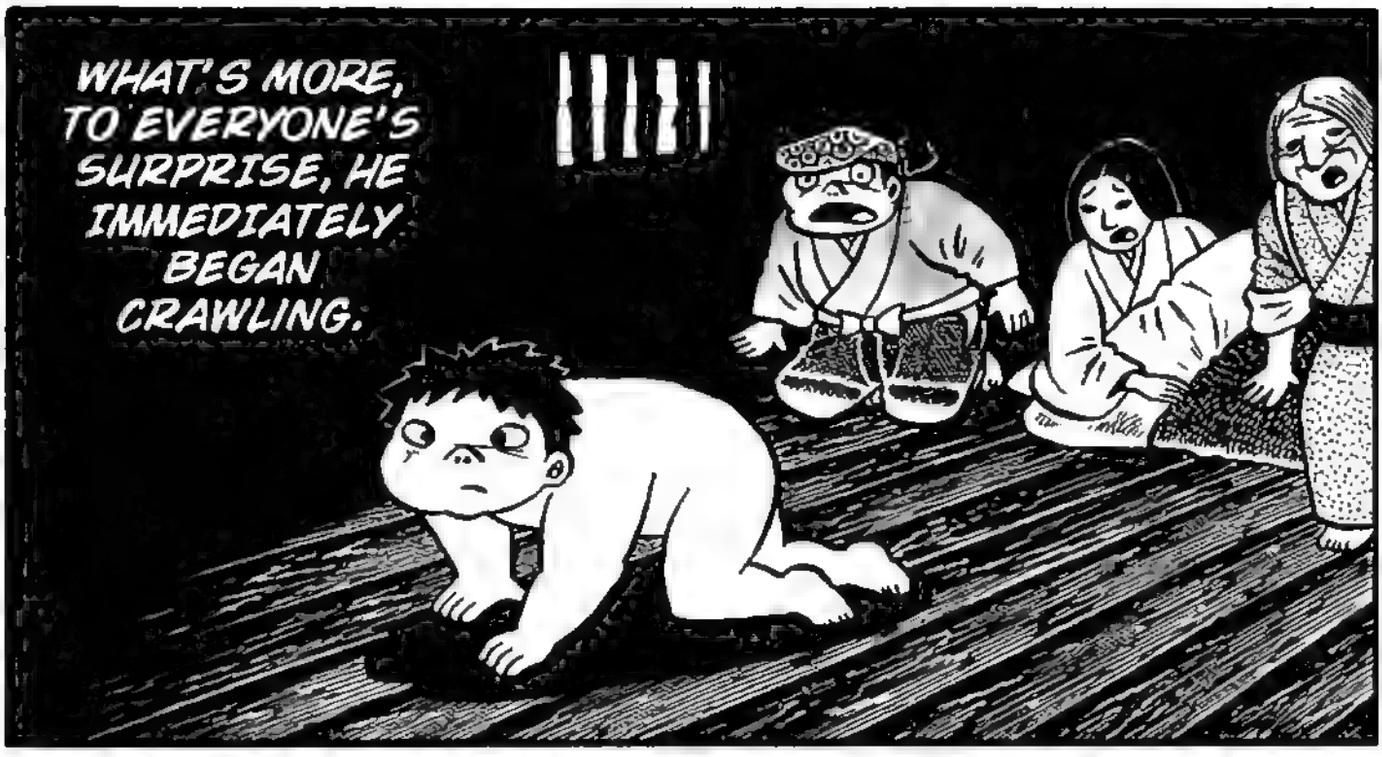
ROLLED IN FRONT OF HER.
HER HUSBAND'S HEAD...


IN ADDITION, THE SERVANTS AND HORSES THAT HAD ACCOMPANIED HER HUSBAND'S BROTHER'S HAD BEEN REDUCED TO JUST THEIR BONES...

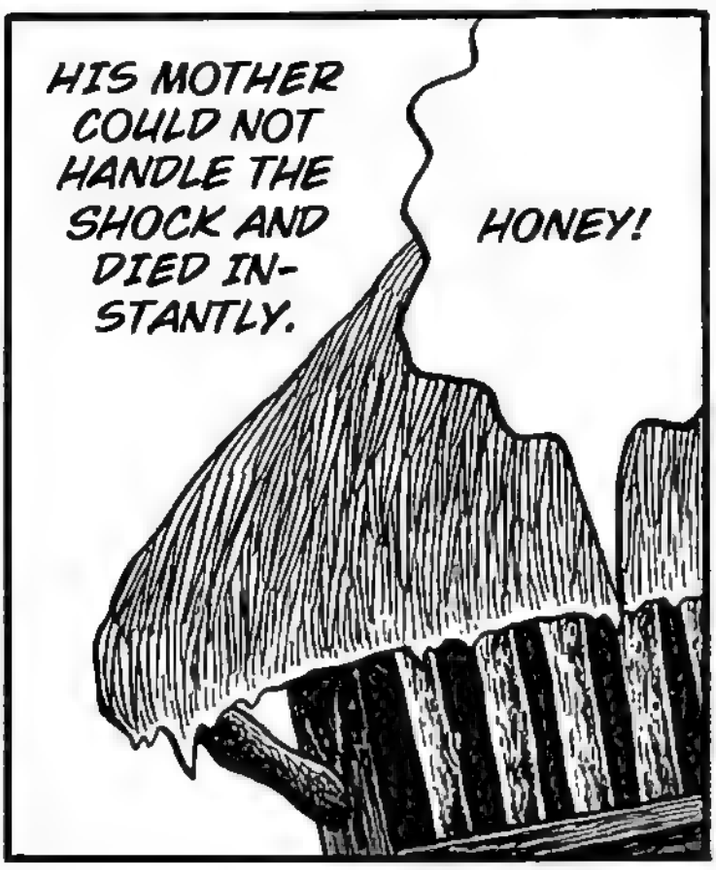
THE BOY FROM IBARAKI

茨木童子

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN IBARAKI, A SMALL VILLAGE IN SETTSU* PROVINCE, A BABY BOY WAS BORN.
HE WAS HUGE, MUCH BIGGER THAN AN ORDINARY BABY.

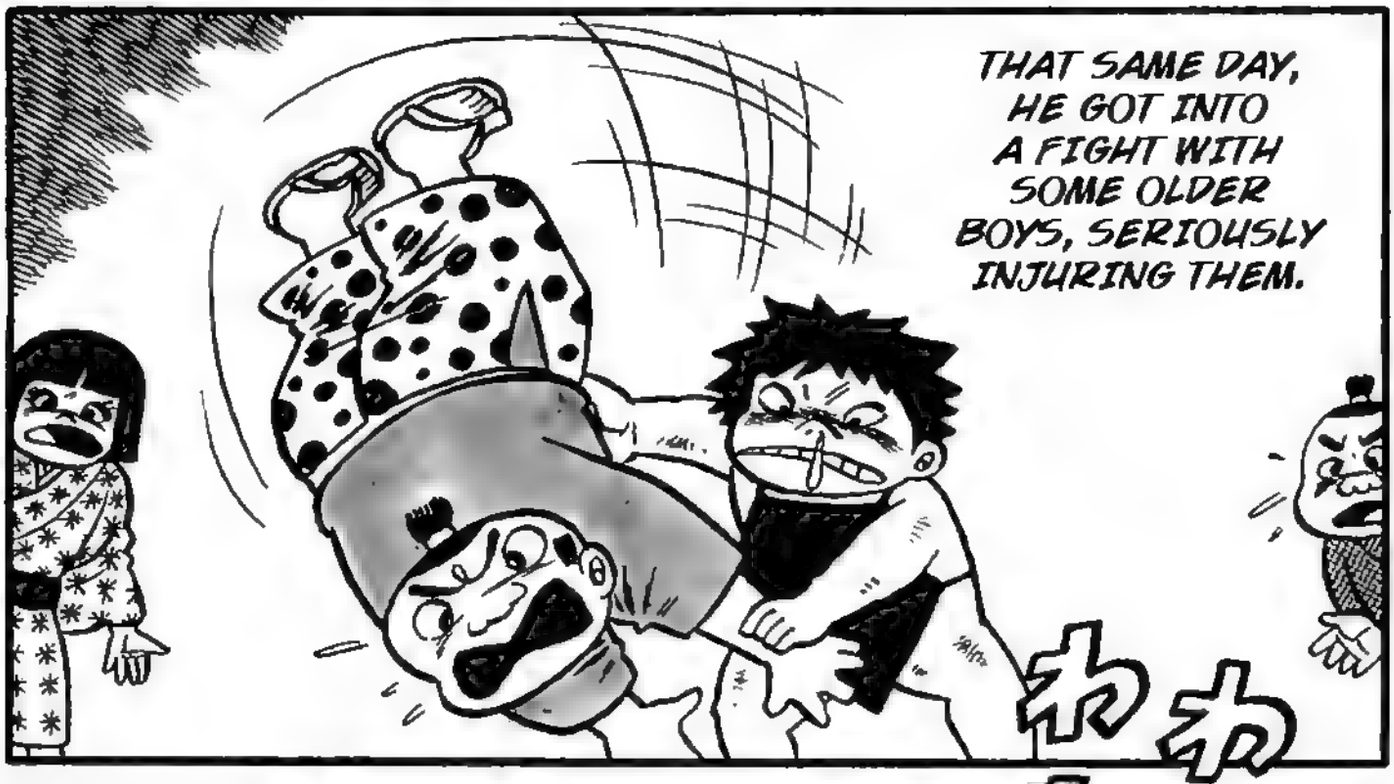

WHAT'S MORE, TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, HE IMMEDIATELY BEGAN CRAWLING.

WHEN HE TURNED AROUND AND SMILED, THEY SAW TEETH HAD ALREADY GROWN IN HIS MOUTH.
HIHI ...


HIS MOTHER COULD NOT HANDLE THE SHOCK AND DIED IN-STANTLY.
HONEY!

HON-EY ...
カッ

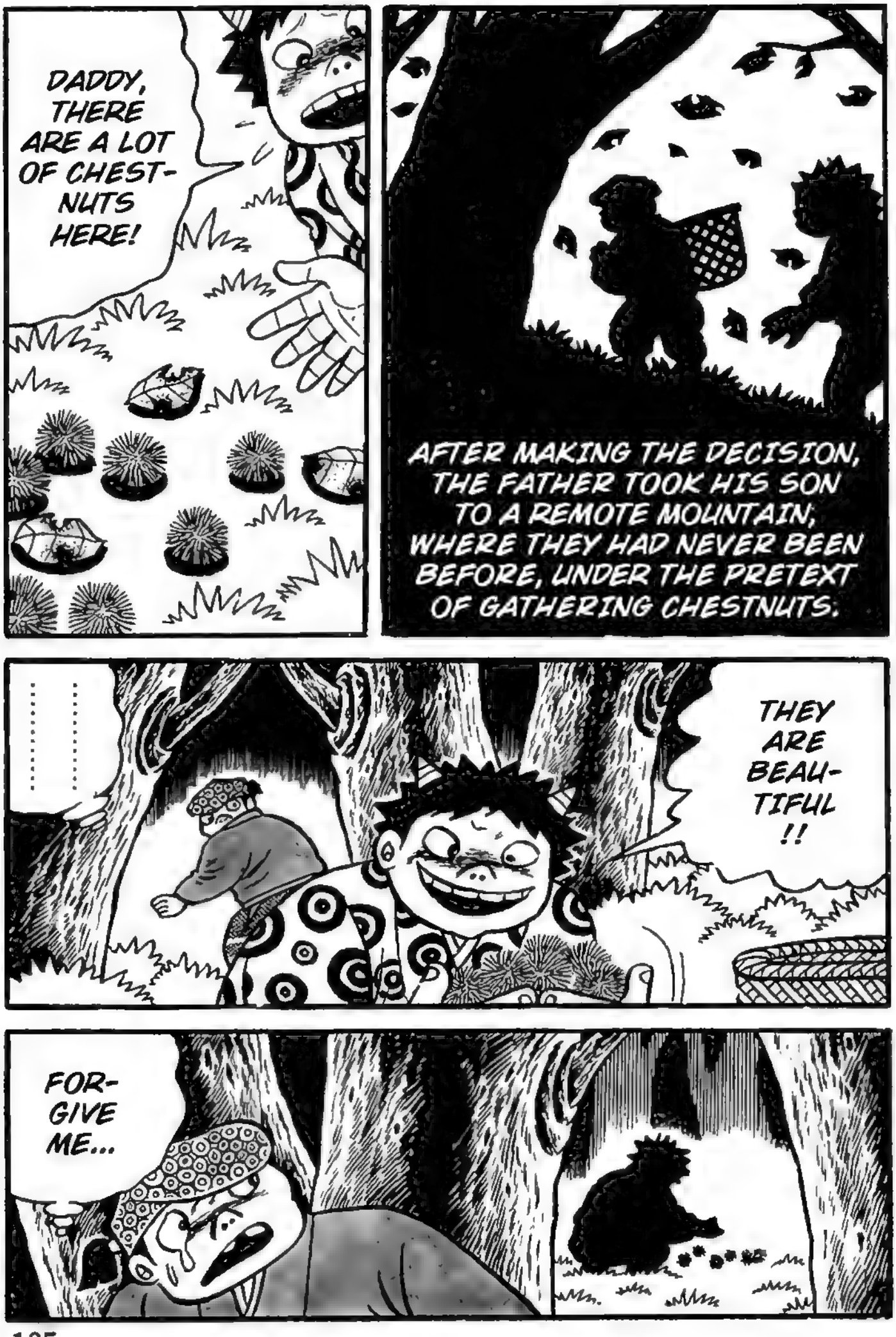
GA-GA
...
UNAWARE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THE BOY STARTED GOING OUTSIDE TO PLAY WHEN HE WAS NOT EVEN THREE DAYS OLD.

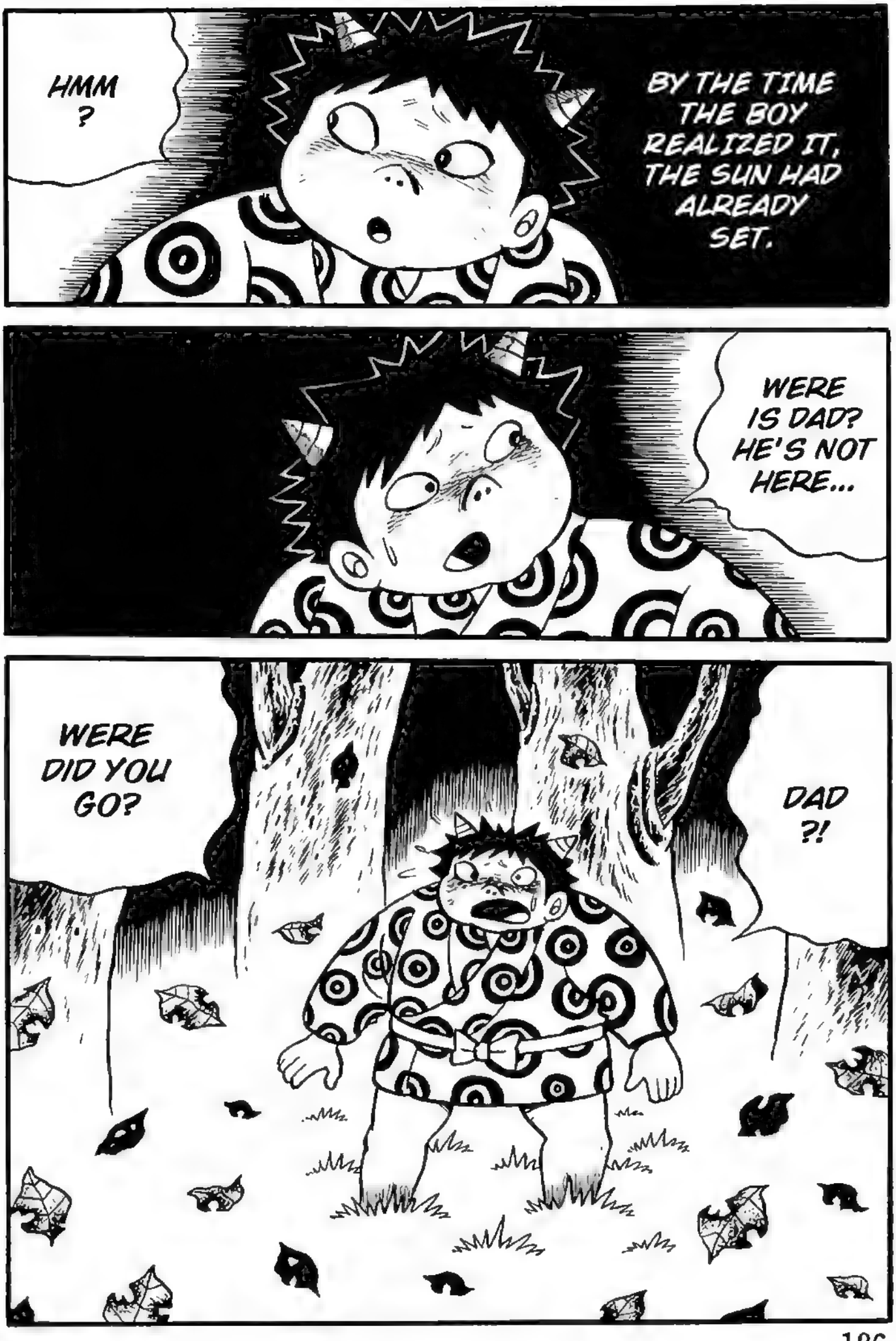

THAT SAME DAY, HE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH SOME OLDER BOYS, SERIOUSLY INJURING THEM.
わわ

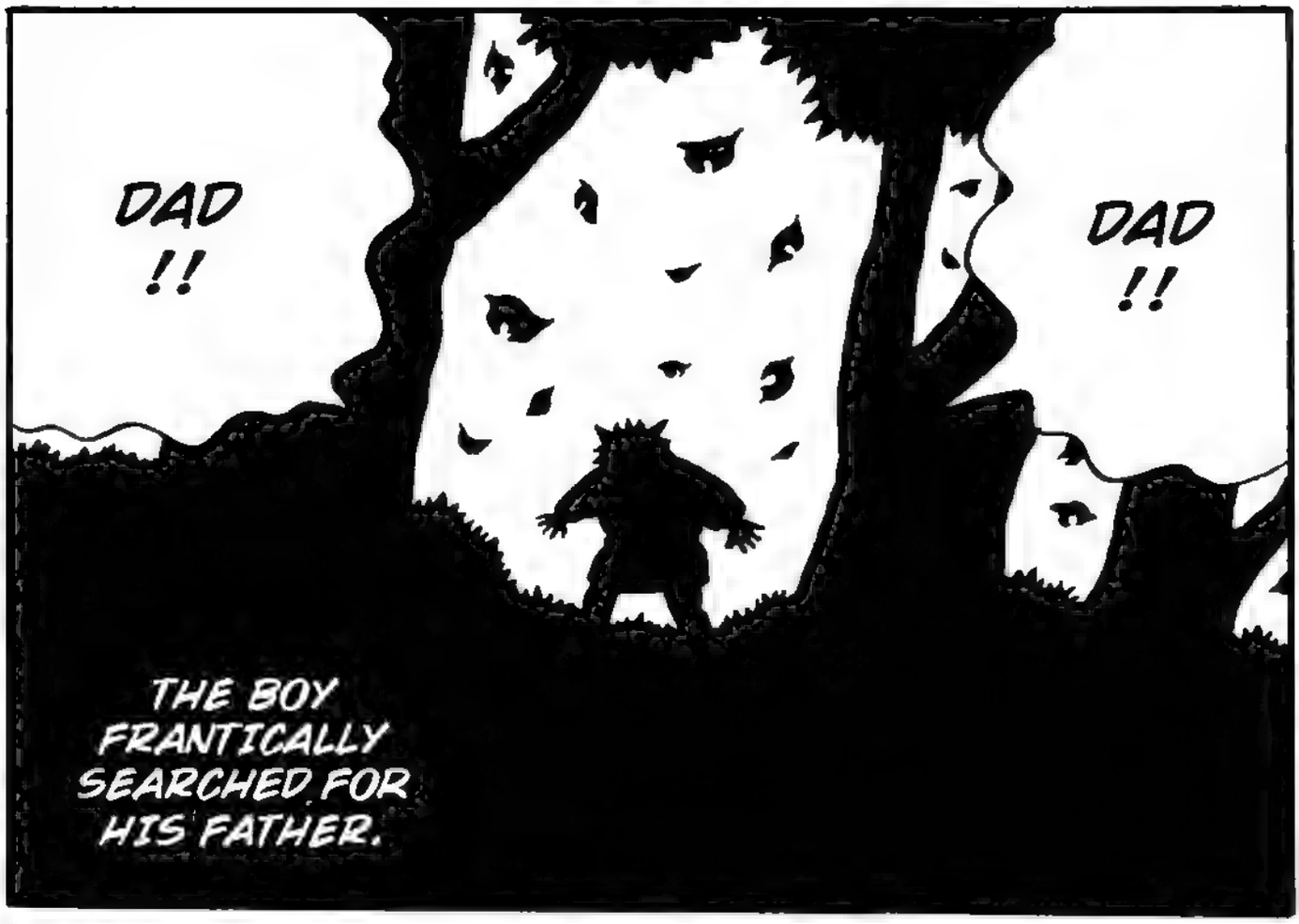
GA-GA
...
H-HE'S A MON-STER!
HE BR-OKE MY ARM!

LET'S PLAY!
THE BOY WAS GROWING BIGGER EVERY DAY.
A LIT-TLE ONI!
A MON-STER!
WAAH! RUN!
.....
ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE ENDED UP FEARING HIM AND NO ONE PLAYED WITH HIM ANYMORE.

ONE DAY, HORNS SPROUTED FROM THE BOY'S HEAD.
WHAT ARE THOSE ?
AHHH! MY HEAD ITCHES!
AAAH! I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO STAY IN OUR VILLAGE.

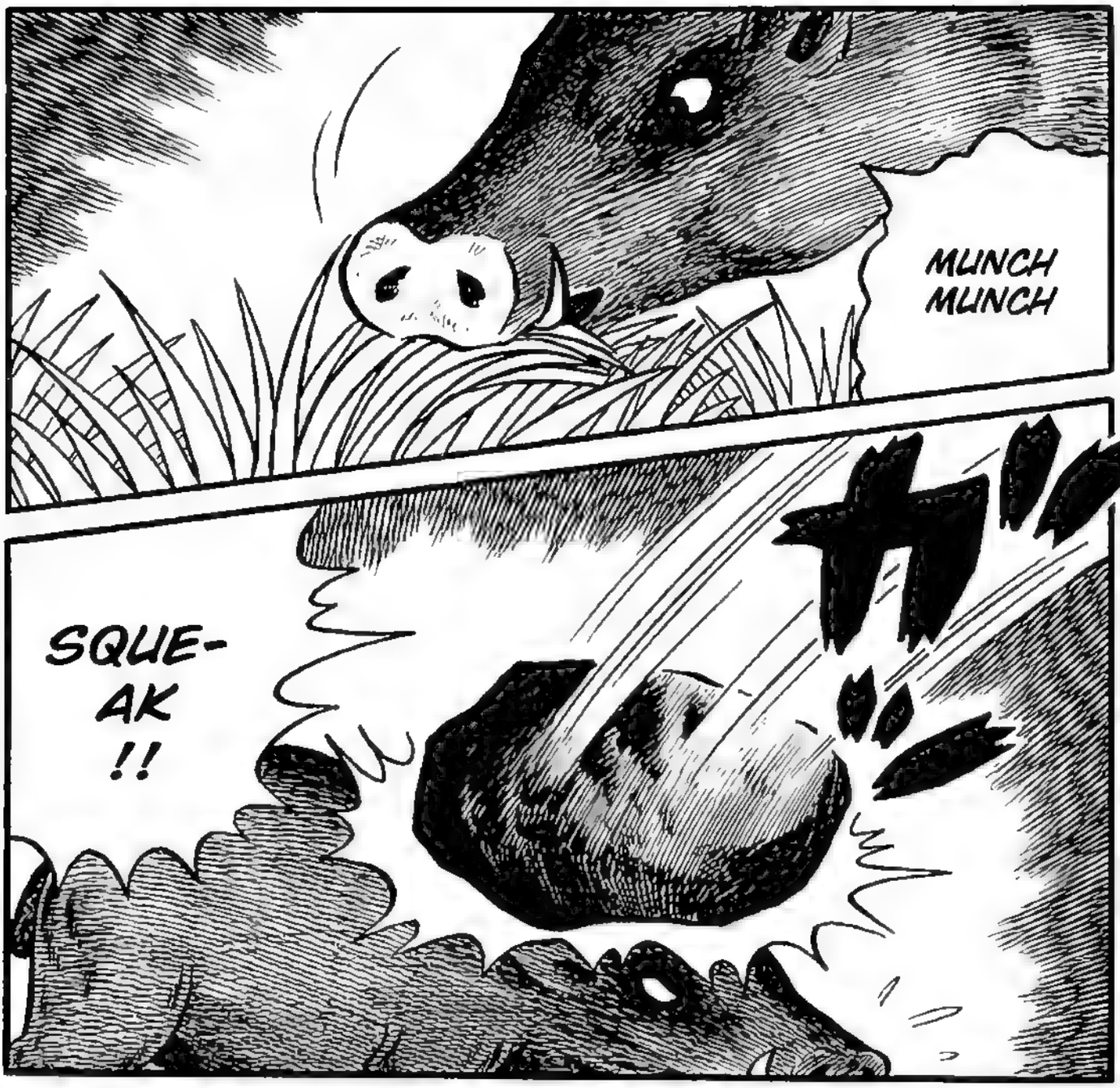

DADDY, THERE ARE A LOT OF CHEST-NUTS HERE!
AFTER MAKING THE DECISION, THE FATHER TOOK HIS SON TO A REMOTE MOUNTAIN, WHERE THEY HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF GATHERING CHESTNUTS.
.....
THEY ARE BEAU-TIFUL !!
FOR-GIVE ME...

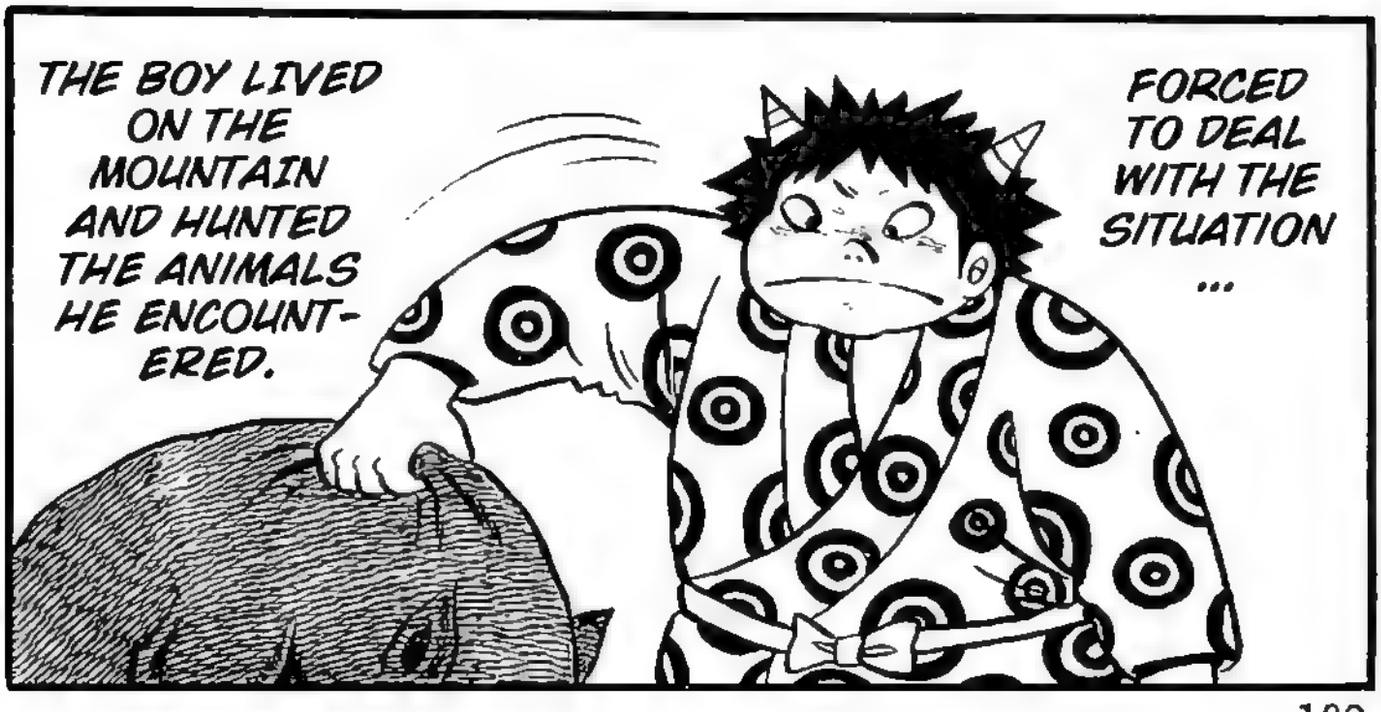

HMM ?
BY THE TIME THE BOY REALIZED IT, THE SUN HAD ALREADY SET.
WERE IS DAD? HE'S NOT HERE...
WERE DID YOU GO?
DAD ?!

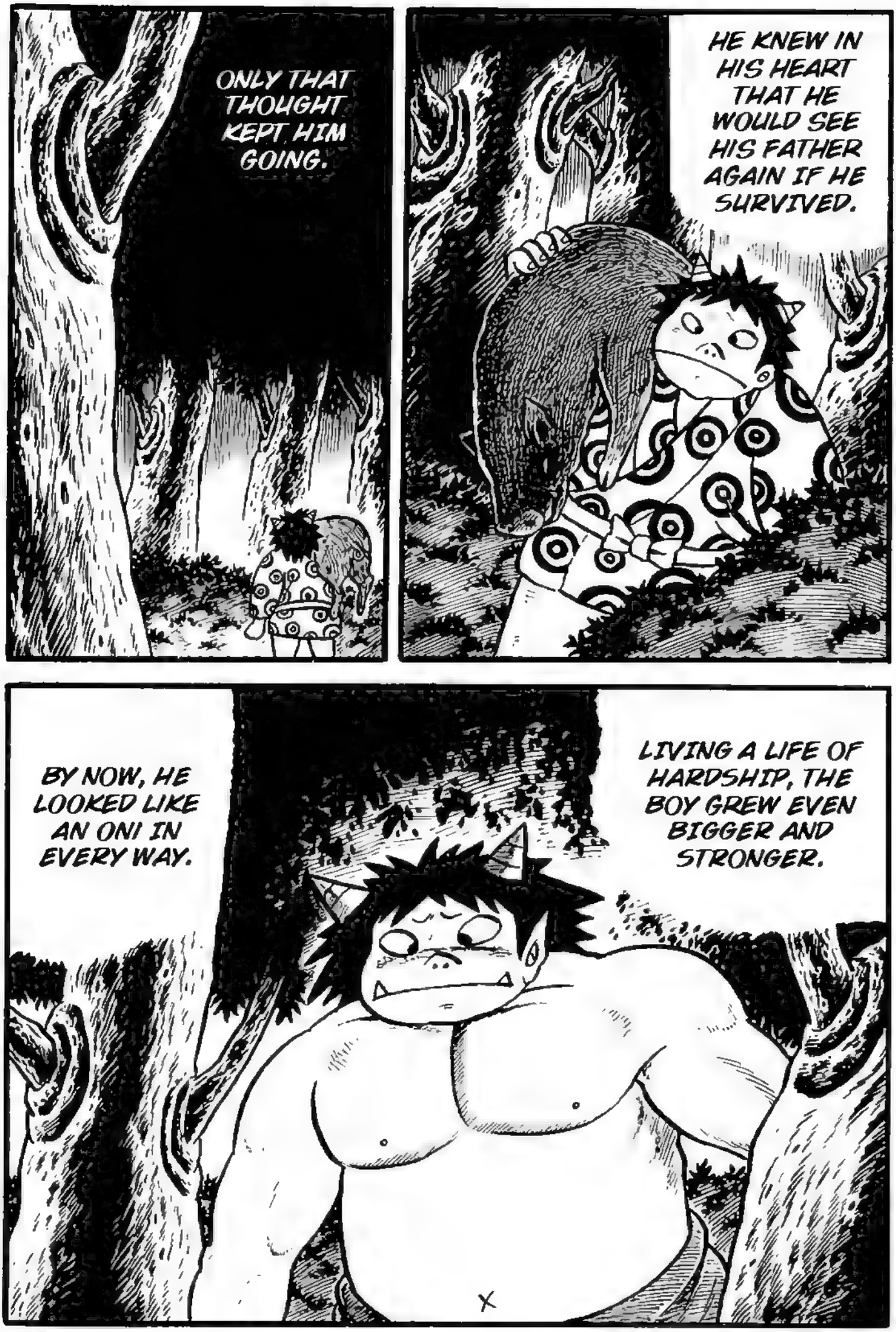

DAD !!
DAD !!
THE BOY FRANTICALLY SEARCHED FOR HIS FATHER.

SNIFF ...
THE BOY HAD BEEN ABANDONED ON THE MOUNTAIN.

BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD HE SEARCHED, HE COULD FIND NO TRACE OF HIM.
D-DAD ...


MUNCH
MUNCH
SQUE-
AK
!!

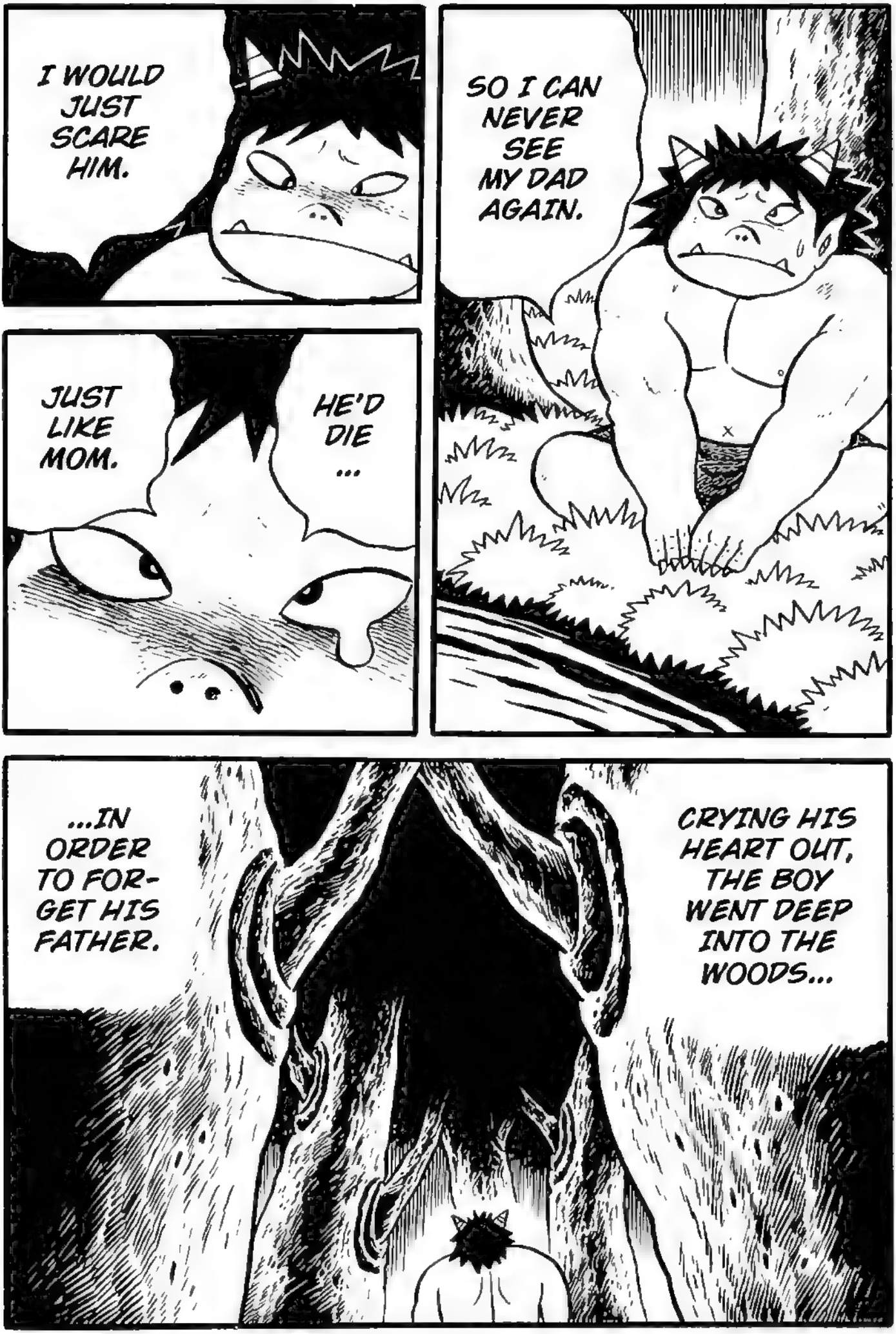

THE BOY LIVED ON THE MOUNTAIN AND HUNTED THE ANIMALS HE ENCOUNT-ERED.
FORCED TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION ...


ONLY THAT THOUGHT KEPT HIM GOING.
HE KNEW IN HIS HEART THAT HE WOULD SEE HIS FATHER AGAIN IF HE SURVIVED.
BY NOW, HE LOOKED LIKE AN ONI IN EVERY WAY.
LIVING A LIFE OF HARDSHIP, THE BOY GREW EVEN BIGGER AND STRONGER.

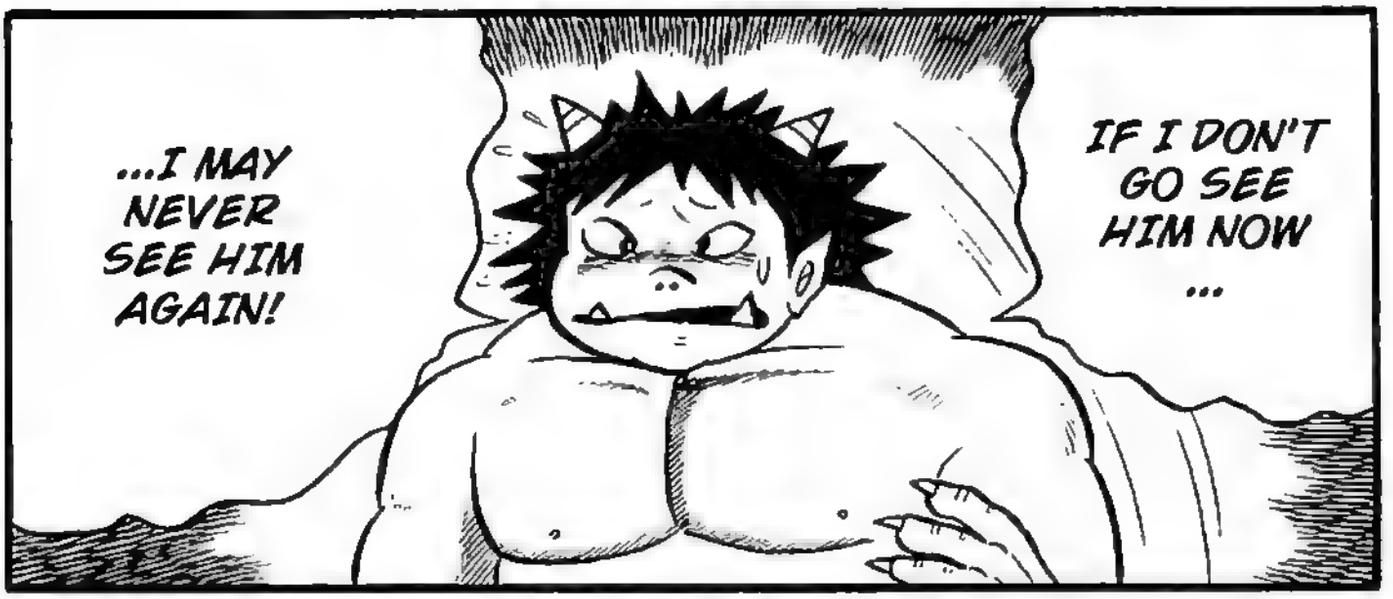
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

BUT... I LOOK LIKE AN ONI!
THIS IS WHAT I LOOK LIKE?!

I TURNED INTO AN ONI!
EXACTLY LIKE AN ONI!

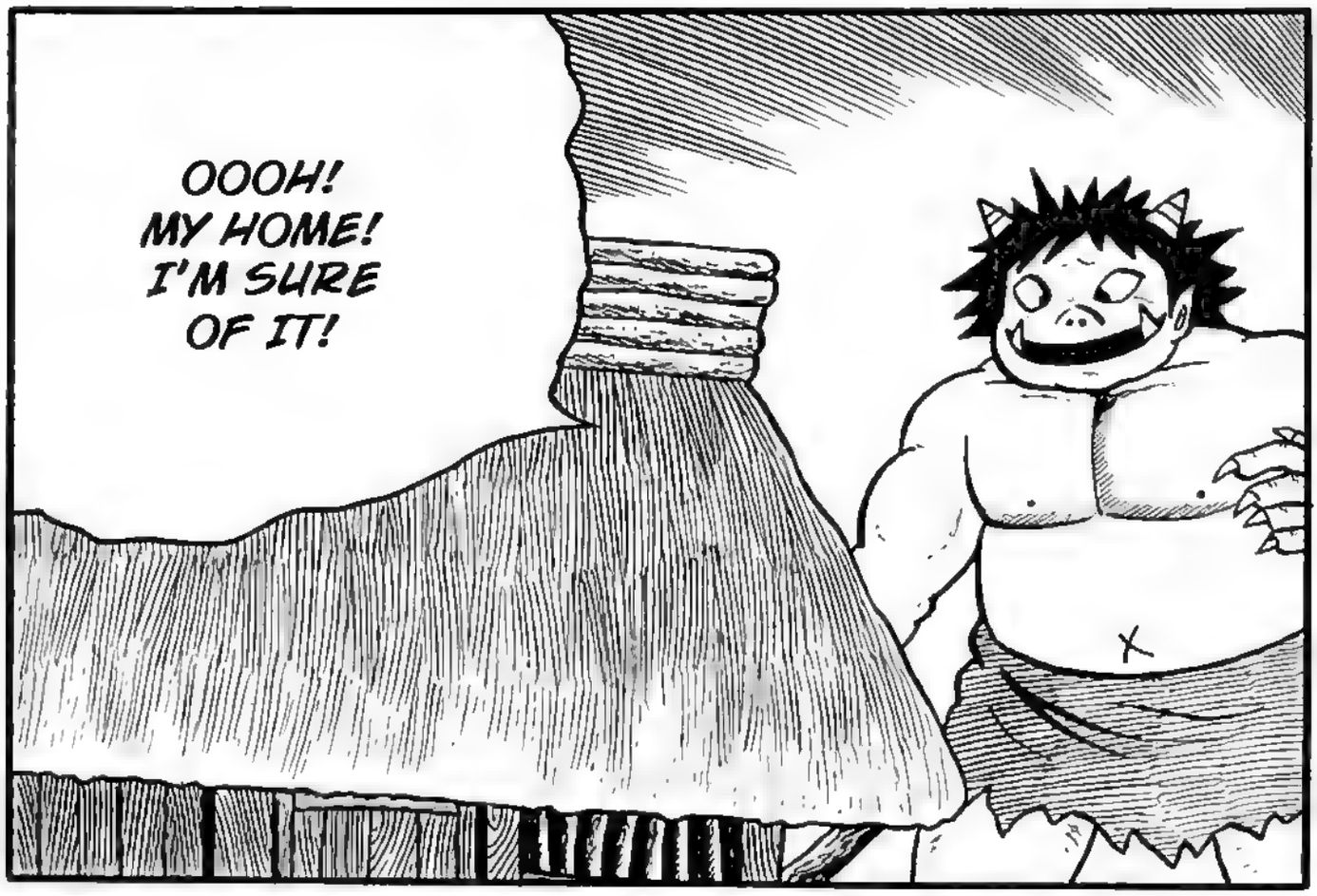

I WOULD JUST SCARE HIM.
SO I CAN NEVER SEE MY DAD AGAIN.
JUST LIKE MOM.
HE'D DIE ...
...IN ORDER TO FOR-GET HIS FATHER.
CRYING HIS HEART OUT, THE BOY WENT DEEP INTO THE WOODS...

...UNTIL THIRTY YEARS HAD GONE BY.
THE SEASONS CAME AND WENT...
I WONDER IF DAD IS DOING FINE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
IF HE GOT SICK, HE'D PROBABLY DIE.
HE IS OLD NOW.


...I MAY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
IF I DON'T GO SEE HIM NOW ...

IT WAS THAT FEAR THAT DROVE HIM DOWN THE MOUN-TAIN...

THE VIL-LAGE!
WAAH! THAT'S IT!


OOOH!
MY HOME!
I'M SURE
OF IT!

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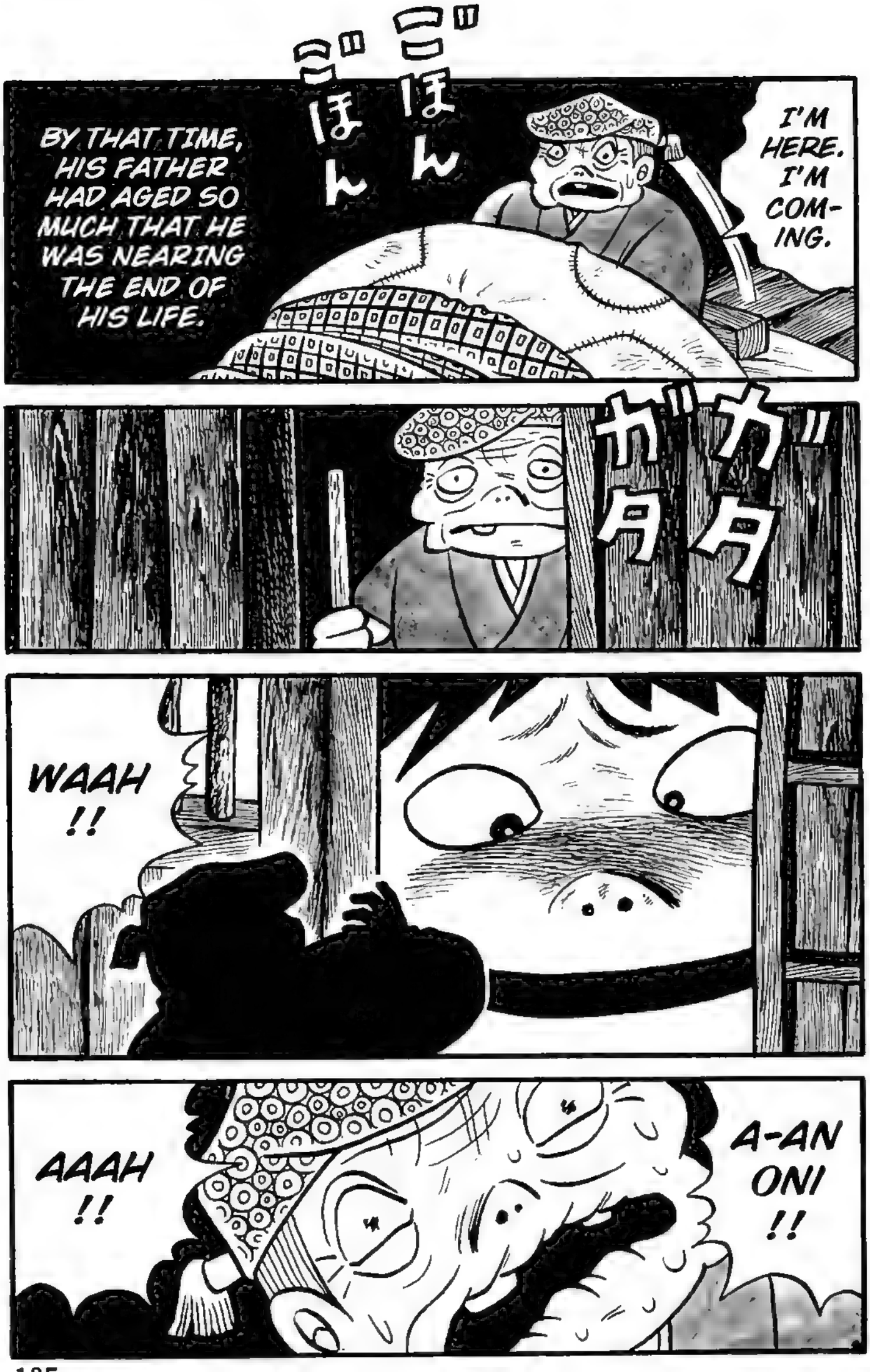
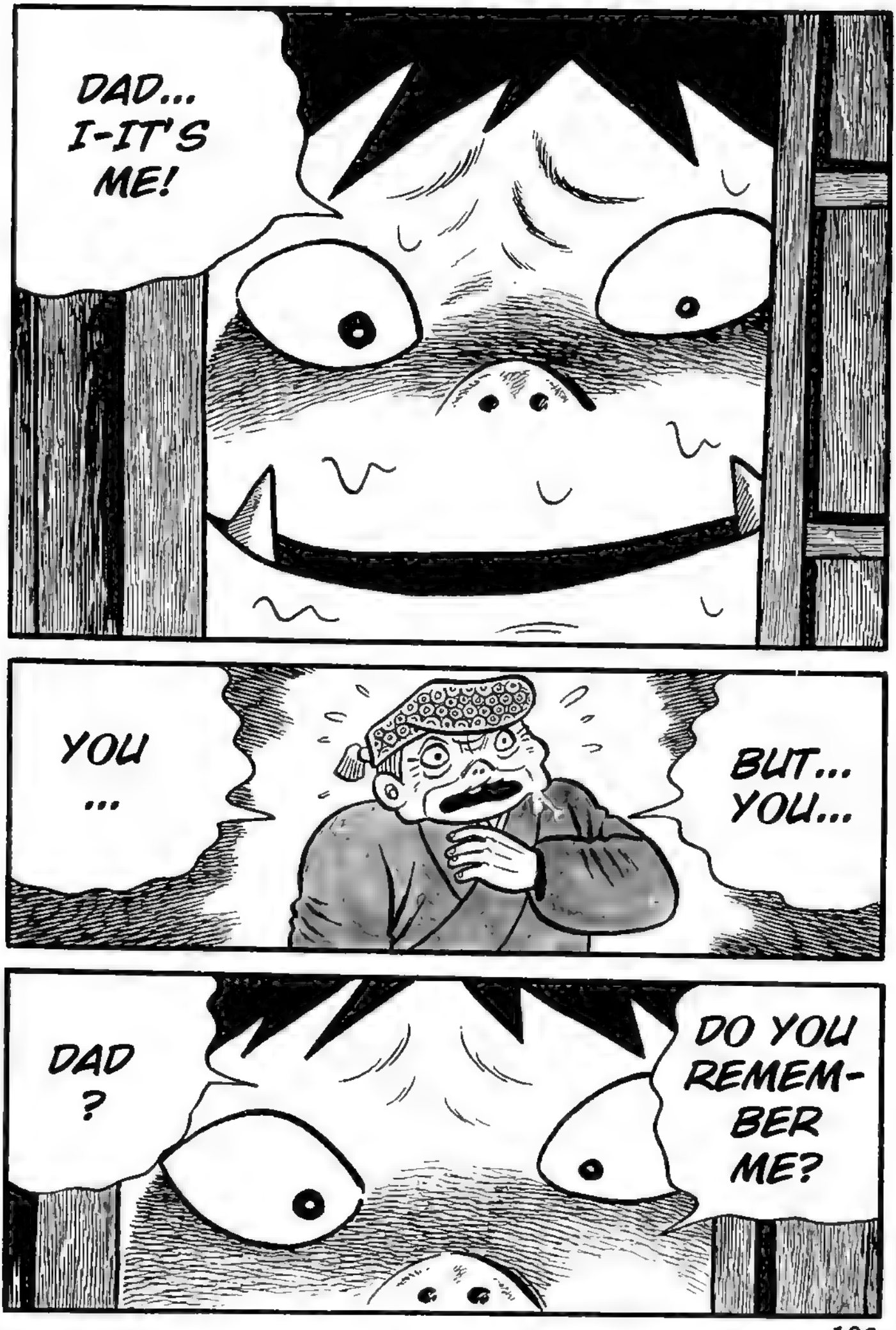
OH, THE
MEMORIES
...

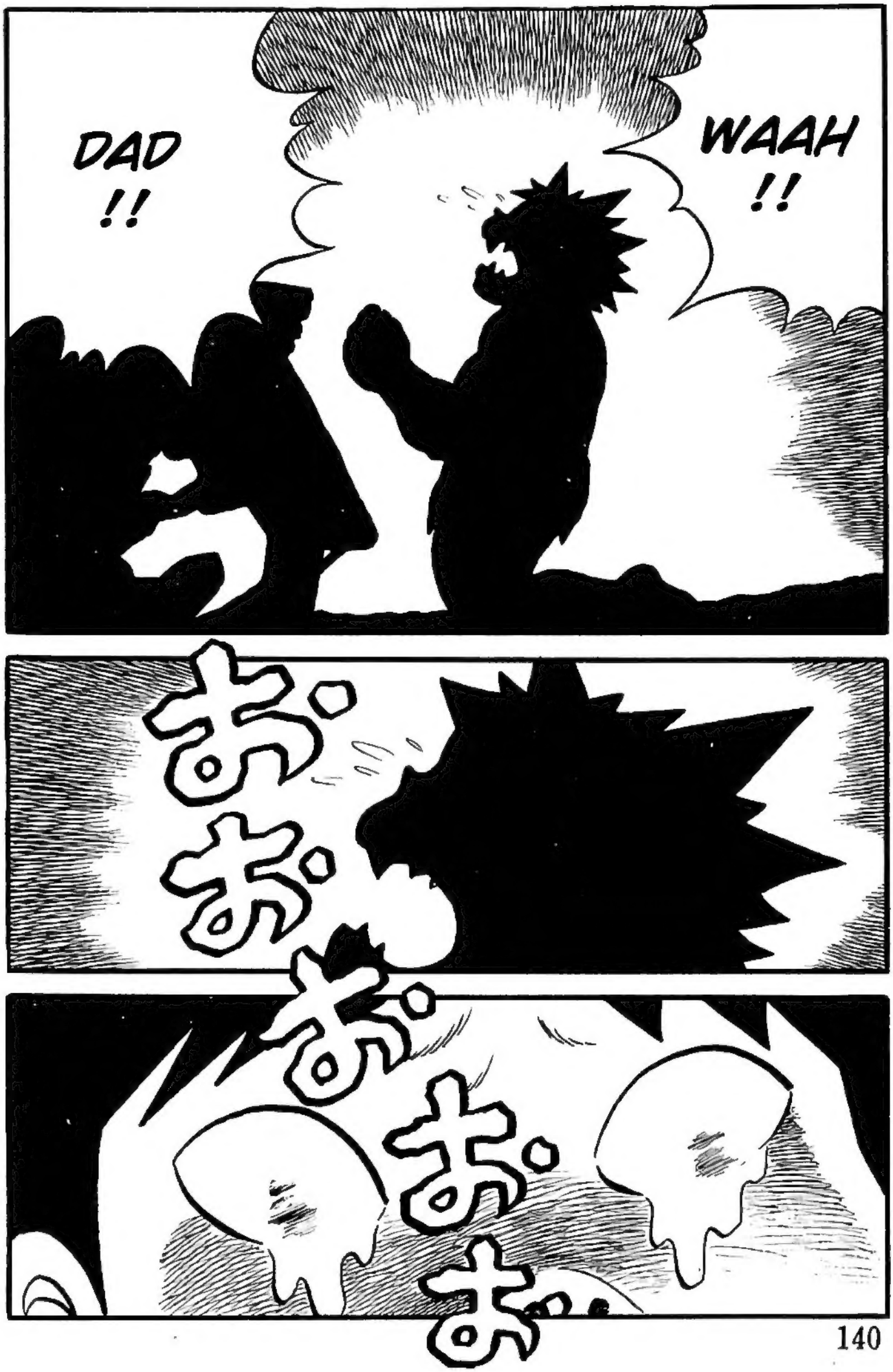

BY THAT TIME, HIS FATHER HAD AGED SO MUCH THAT HE WAS NEARING THE END OF HIS LIFE.
ごほんごほん
I'M HERE. I'M COMING.
ガタガタ
WAAH !!
AAAH !!
A-AN ONI !!

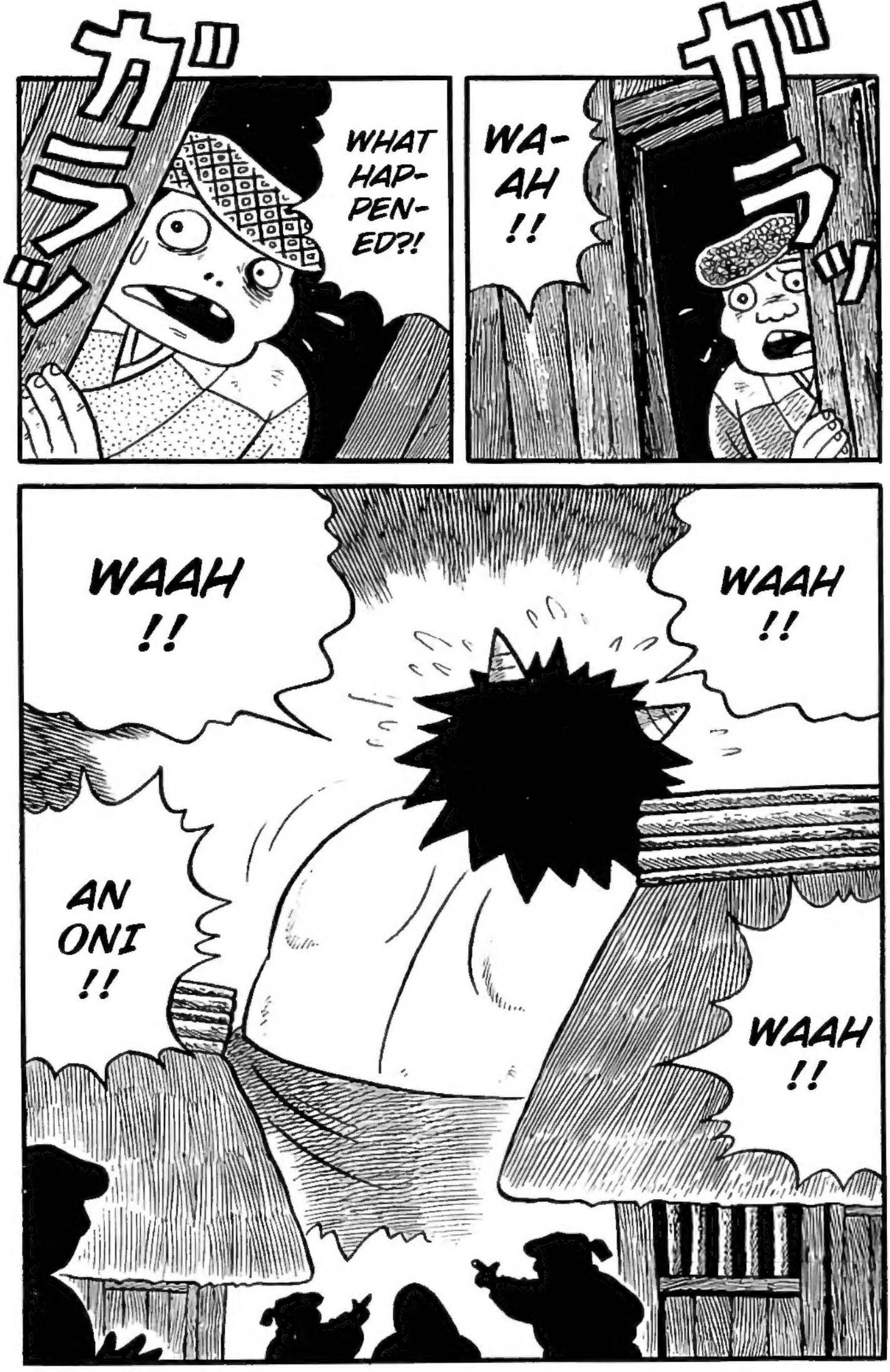

DAD... I-IT'S ME!
YOU ...
BUT... YOU...
DAD ?
DO YOU REMEM-BER ME?

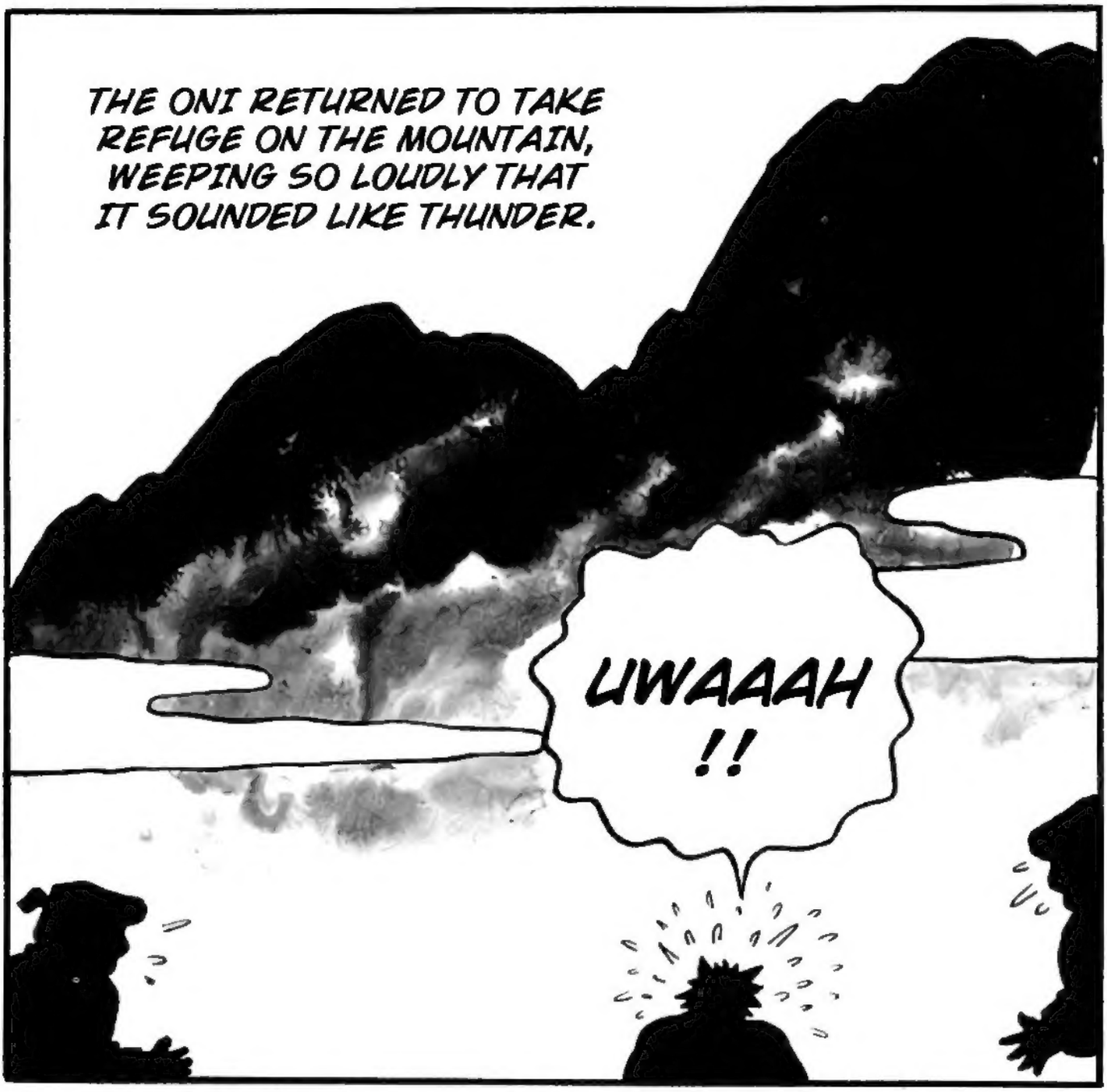
WAAH !!
I WAS WORRIED THAT MY APPEARANCE WOULD FRIGHTEN YOU.
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN HOLDING OFF FROM COMING BACK. BUT NOW I'M GLAD I FINALLY DECIDED TO COME.

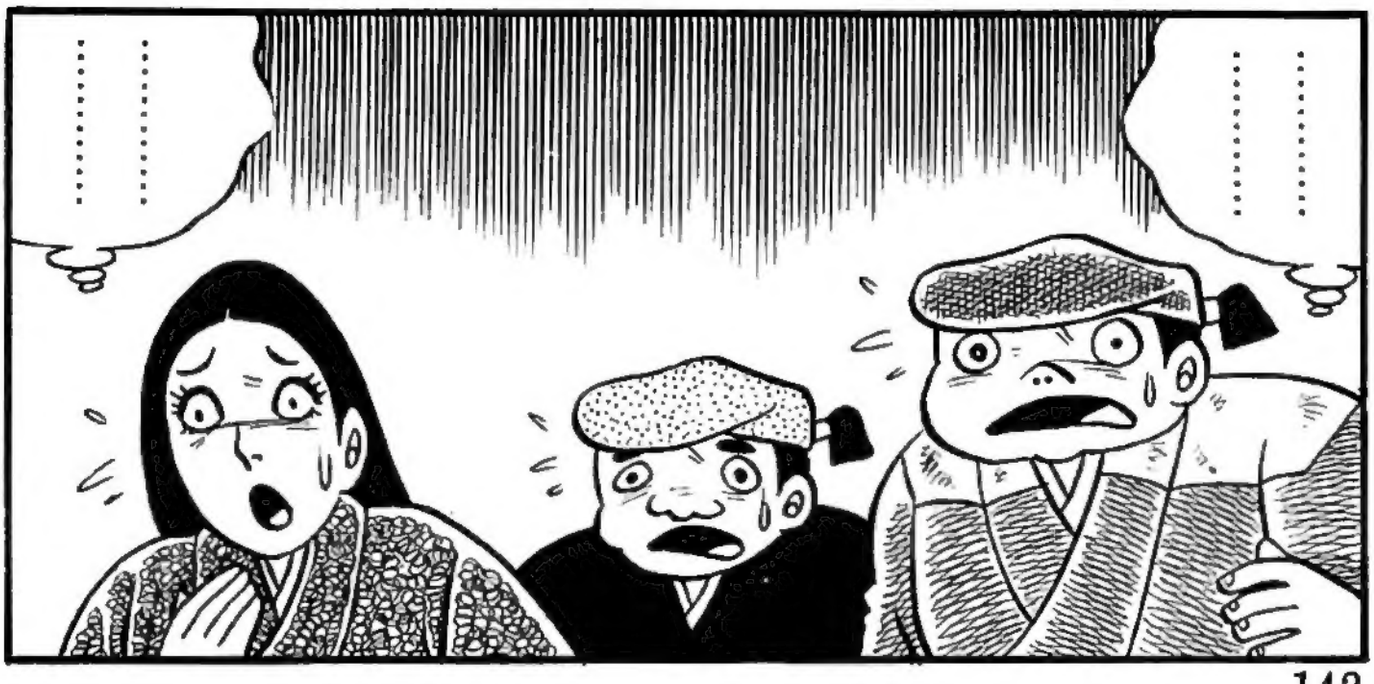
LISTEN... I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE MOUNTAINS AND I'LL LET YOU TASTE ALL THE DELICIOUS THINGS THERE SO YOU'LL GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK.
YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD SON.
AFTER HOW POORLY I TREATED YOU...
ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH ...
YOUR FEEL-INGS... FOR ME...

カハッ
……
I WAS... REALLY HAPPY... TO... SEE YOU AGAIN...
YOU CAN'T DIE!
DAD, NO!


DAD !!
WAAH !!
ドン
ドン
ドン


ガラッ
WHAT HAP-PEN-ED?!
ガラッ
WA-AH !!
WAAH !!
WAAH !!
AN ONI !!
WAAH !!


THE ONI RETURNED TO TAKE REFUGE ON THE MOUNTAIN, WEEPING SO LOUDLY THAT IT SOUNDED LIKE THUNDER.
UWAAAH !!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HE NEVER
RETURNED
TO THE VILLAGE
OF IBARAKI.